

Hafa Adai!

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Board of Education OKs Hopwood renovations. **PAGE 9**

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## Ex-lawmaker allegedly lied in his financial statements

» **Gregorio Vicente Muna Sablan Jr. pleads not guilty**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a criminal case against former Precinct 1 representative Gregorio Vicente Muña Sablan Jr. for allegedly not disclosing in his statement of financial interest when he was a lawmaker that he was connected and earned an income from a shooting range on Saipan.



Sablan Jr.

According to court documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* last Friday, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds filed an amended information last Jan. 6 charging the 53-year-old Sablan with two counts of violating disclosure requirements and two counts of misconduct in public office.

Sablan appeared with his counsel, Mark Scoggins, during an arraignment before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo last Jan. 6.

The defendant, through Scoggins, waived the

**See EX-LAWMAKER on Page 4**

## OPA: CEC's lack of ballot accountability unresolved

By **IVA MAURIN**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission's lack of accountability for the number of ballots received and available, and the lack of accountability on the total ballots used and unused in the last election, remain unresolved, according to the Office of the Public Auditor.

This was one of the items the OPA cited in the report it released last Jan. 15 on CNMI agencies' implementation of audit recommendations in June 2019.

**Story on PAGE 3**

## CHCC utility bill balloons to \$32.93M

» **CUC suggests 2 alternatives for CHCC to reduce \$400K monthly obligations**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s long outstanding balance with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has now ballooned to \$32.93 million and CUC is suggesting two ways that CHCC could do to reduce its \$400,000 monthly billing.

**See CHCC on Page 4**

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Miranda V. Manglona presides over a board meeting last Thursday, in which one of the issues discussed was the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s debt to CUC that has now ballooned to \$32.93 million.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## OPA twits CPA for deficits in managing equipment, land

» **CPA says corrective actions had been taken**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In an independent audit on the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Office

of the Public Auditor has found significant deficiencies in how it manages equipment and real property.

According to the independent audit conducted by Deloitte & Touche LLC

on internal control and on compliance year ended Sept. 30, 2018, CPA did perform a capital assets inventory in fiscal year 2018, but a reconciliation

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## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

BAB Korean Restaurant takes over the former Caesar's Sauna property in Garapan.

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### ASIA

Clashes broke out between protesters and police in Hong Kong.

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### FOCUS

Firefighters have saved the world's last remaining wild stand of a prehistoric tree.

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## Local

## Finance provides clarification on FY 2019 deficit

After further analysis from the Department of Finance and the Legislative Bureau on the FY 2019 Annual Report to the Legislature, Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig provided additional clarification on the CNMI's financial state, which was negatively impacted in the last year by a recovering economy reeling from a severe natural disaster.

"It is important that we view the CNMI's financial state in the context of the reality of [fiscal year] 2019, which was dramatically different than past years," said Atalig. "The announcement of [fiscal year] 2019's deficit speaks to the transparency that this administration seeks to provide to the public, but it is apparent, that there are some who wish to convolute the present situation."

In his revised report to the Legislature, Atalig said that fiscal year 2019 started the year with the unanticipated and devastating shutdown of the CNMI economy due to Super Typhoon Yutu, significantly affecting economic activity in the first quarter of

fiscal year 2019.

"The report was adjusted to conform to the governmental accounting standard of modified accrual. Expenditures are accrued when they are expected, such as the budgeted allotments and earmarks to autonomous agencies. In our report, we made an adjustment of \$9,260,566 to record expenses for unpaid allotments in operating transfers. The correct deficit amount is approximately \$88 million from the earlier reported amount of \$98 million."

The following are the reasons for the adjustments:

■ Payables due to MVA were included as part of total expenditures, in error, as these expenditures were previously calculated in the earmark portion of net budgetary resources.

In other words, it was factored in twice in the report. A reduction of \$4,950,126 will be adjusted on total spending of budgetary resources.

■ Payments and obligations to autonomous agencies were double-recorded in the December report. A reduc-

tion of \$4,347,346 will be adjusted on total spending of budgetary resources.

The breakdown of the deficit is as follows (rounded to the nearest million):

■ Disaster recovery costs (including law enforcement response) - \$49 million

■ Medical referral - \$15 million

■ Law enforcement operations - \$3 million

■ Other operational costs - \$5 million

This is a total of about \$72 million in underbudgeted expenses during fiscal year 2019. Moreover, the CNMI was short \$16 million in revenue projection due to the loss of economic activity throughout the year, bringing the overall deficit to \$88 million.

He noted that administering public finances during a disaster recovery period is one of the most complex challenges for any local or state government.

"\$49 million over expenditure on disaster appropriation speaks to the severity of the disaster and the need for immediate government support to

ensure the safety of our community. These expenses were necessary, unappropriated and large, but are anticipated to be reimbursed through the [Federal Emergency Management Agency] reimbursement process," he said.

The Finance secretary added that the bulk of the deficit, which was recovery spending subject to reimbursement, was not the result of excessive government overspending.

"Disasters are a problem in two parts. It requires significant upfront expense from our general fund, and it causes a temporary loss of economic activity and revenue. Speaking to the second part of our financial problems, the CNMI government was short of its revenue projections by \$16 million in 2019. Already, these factors contribute to 70 percent of the deficit."

Atalig noted that the remaining deficit amounts represent longstanding policy concerns that require legislative action to assist in alleviating.

"The persistent deficit spending on Medical Referral, which, to be clear, happens every year because of the various needs of our community, places the administration in a position of either exceeding the statutory appropriation or denying essential healthcare services to our people."

"Members of the Legislature who have voiced concern of the deficit supported the recent statutory provision that permitted the government to continue to provide services in this critical area, even if it goes over budget."

"While this administration and the Medical Referral Office is continuing the hard work of instituting changes to reduce overall costs associated with off-island treatment of critical conditions, this deficit will continue to grow if re-

sponsive action by the Legislature is not taken."

Atalig also discussed the overtime costs of law enforcement officers, which made up another recurring item of the deficit.

"Similarly, the government is placed in a difficult situation relating to the essential services provided by law enforcement personnel. The demands of public safety and the proper protection of life and property provided by the CNMI government cannot be sacrificed for the 'under allocation' of overtime payments by the Legislature."

"These expenses would not be as dramatic if the CNMI government had sufficient resources and revenue from a growing economy. That is why economic development and the support of revenue generating policies from all members of the Legislature is crucial."

"It is a disservice to every resident of our islands when others choose to criticize government deficits, expect consistent government services, and hinder the private sector from realizing success in our Commonwealth."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios added that working together to provide collective solutions to the collective problems facing our Commonwealth should be the way forward, instead of throwing rocks from the sideline without full context of a challenging 2019.

"To the members of the Legislature concerned with the current financial situation, it is crucial to the advancement of our islands to be truthful in the assessment of responsibility. We, as leaders in the government, all share in the responsibility to ensure the allocation of resources and the provision of services provides

for the needs of our people."

"Deficits occur in government spending in a challenging economic year in order to meet the needs of our people. Whether it be medical referral or overtime costs, we have a fundamental duty to provide the service so that a family can seek the off-island treatment they need and a law enforcement officer can receive compensation in a demanding job. It is the job of the Legislature to fund services, and the job of the administration to administer them. We have done our very best to reduce overtime costs and to reform our medical referral system through our own cost-containment measures, which saved the government \$15 million last year."

"Despite these challenges in 2019, this administration continues to be on time in its Settlement Fund payments to ensure the pensions of our retirees."

Failure to make payments to the Settlement Fund would have resulted in the CNMI going into receivership and an even worse financial condition.

"Our retirees' benefits have not been reduced at all, and we will continue to fulfill that priority."

"Politics and lengthy absolutions of blame may be helpful to their cause in the short-term, but truly committing to understand the facts, and taking the hard, but necessary steps to provide solutions is what we should aim to achieve."

"If members of the minority are interested in better understanding the complexity of managing government finances in this environment and the ways in which government relies on private sector growth to provide services, we welcome them to speak with us and our team." (PR)

## Kilili co-sponsors bill to protect man'amko from workplace discrimination

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Man'amko facing age discrimination on the job has found an advocate in Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

To protect the islands' man'amko (elderly), Sablan has co-sponsored a bill that would protect older workers against discrimination.

"The data is overwhelming: Americans are working more and longer. But older workers can be particularly vulnerable to workplace discrimination," Sablan said in his e-newsletter.

Based on a survey conduct-

ed by the American Association of Retired Persons, about three in five older workers have seen or experienced age discrimination in the workplace, that 76% of them see



Sablan

as a hurdle to finding a new job, and over 50% are prematurely pushed out of long-term jobs.

AARP also found age discrimination in the workplace in three main areas: recruitment and hiring, on-the-job bias, and in termination.

The bill, H.R. 1230, or the

Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 15, Wednesday, and is now with the U.S. Senate, under the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

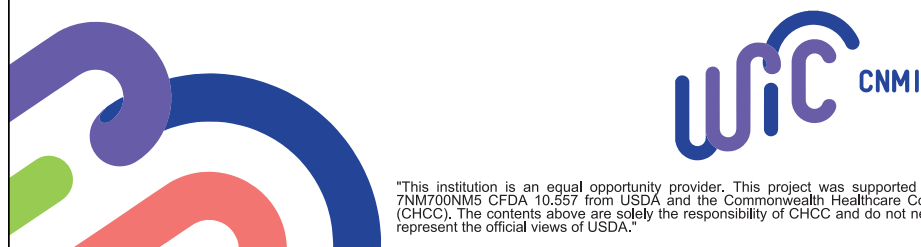
"The bill reverses standing Supreme Court case law that makes it difficult for victims to prove they lost their job because of age discrimination," Sablan said.

H.R. 1230 would also amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.

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\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA.



## OPA: CEC's lack of ballot accountability unresolved

The Commonwealth Election Commission's lack of accountability for the number of ballots received and available, and the lack of accountability on the total ballots used and unused in the last election, remain unresolved, according to the Office of the Public Auditor.

This was one of the items the OPA cited in the report it released last Jan. 15 on CNMI agencies' implementation of audit recommendations in June 2019.

"CEC's inability to account for all ballots used throughout the duration of the election is very concerning," the OPA audit report read. "Democracy is built on fair elections, but if basic ballot accountability is missing, the integrity of the election is diminished. Immediate steps to adopt and implement controls over ballot accountability is necessary to ensure a fair, honest, orderly and impartial election process."

OPA reported that the lack of a standard process to account for all ballots received prevents CEC from identifying potential electoral fraud or irregularities.

The audit on the 2018 general election revealed that a total of 23,600 ballots were available for distribution, but only 22,000 ballots were ordered by the CEC, as per its contract with the vendor.

### No accountability for ballots received and available

To resolve the issues, OPA recommended that CEC adopt a system that would document the chain of custody of the ballot stock, including receipt, control, transfer and distribution of the ballots.

According to the status report, in the 2019 Special Election, CEC did create and adopt a system that documented two "chain of custody forms" for ballot stocks.

This include the ballot inventory sheet that documents the transfer and distribution of the ballots from CEC to the poll workers, and the other for absentee ballots picked up at the post office, which must be signed by the Postmaster, OPA staff, a CEC commissioner, and a CEC Staff.

"Although a form to document the chain of custody of ballot stock was provided to OPA for use in the next election, OPA will keep this recommendation unresolved until OPA can determine CEC's implementation of this recommendation," the OPA report stated

### Lack of accountability on total ballots used and unused

OPA also recommended for CEC to adopt and implement policies and procedures that would ensure proper documen-

tation of ballots received, distributed, spoiled, and unused, including a supervisory review over ballot accountability.

According to CEC, "a process was implemented during the 2019 special election to meet this recommendation." The commissioners will, however, still need to meet "to update and formalize the existing policies and procedures on ballot accountability."

As of OPA's last interview with the commission in December, CEC has yet to for-

mally adopt and implement these processes within their agency's regulations.

"The director expressed that CEC does not have operational funds to hold an official board meeting consisting of commissioners from Rota and Tinian. OPA considers this recommendation unresolved and will conduct a follow-up in June 2020," the OPA status report read.

### Training

OPA recommended last year for CEC to provide adequate

training, including testing procedures, to ensure that election officials and poll workers carry out their duties and responsibilities properly.

As a response, CEC said that they will continue to provide mandatory training, as well as the election's official pamphlet, to all election officials and poll workers. Research will also be made to determine whether testing procedures or enhanced trainings are necessary.

While acknowledging the importance of adequate and proper training, CEC said that implementing such changes would require the approval of

all commissioners.

"OPA considers the current pamphlet inadequate as it lacks clear guidelines on the handling of ballots cast by absentee voters on election day, as well as provisional ballots. OPA will keep this recommendation unresolved and will conduct a follow-up in June 2020," the OPA status report read.

The CEC director also said in an interview that OPA did in December that the commission "does not have operational funds to hold an official board meeting consisting of commissioners from Rota and Tinian." (Iva Maurin)

## For the first time, CUC's non-revenue water loss below 50%

For the first time in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s history, it has managed to reduce its non-revenue water loss below 50%.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed this at CUC board meeting last Thursday, saying that CUC's Water Division reduced its non-revenue water loss to 48.1% last December.

That number was at 53.6% in November, he added.

Camacho said this demonstrates the level of effort being pursued by their team of professionals.

Before Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation on Oct. 24 and 25, 2018, CUC's non-revenue water loss was at 50%. This then jumped to 77% dur-

ing the storm because a lot of leaks occurred and several water wells went offline.

CUC deputy director William B. Gilmore, water/wastewater chief engineer Joseph Carlson, and water/wastewater division manager Randy Blackcloud have informed Camacho that they have been taking a different direction in analyzing and investigating the water loss problem, billing accuracy issue, metering accounts and gaps in service locations, and other activities.

"It is proving to be a large effort with findings that are new to the team and may develop into some real solutions as the program being promoted rolls out," Gilmore said in his report.

Gilmore said he himself

is seeing progress that is of a whole new level of detail, which may soon provide a chance to gain ground on a perennial problem.

Gilmore said the Water and Wastewater divisions have implemented a pressure monitoring program that monitors and steps up repair activities on valves, hydrants, pressure reducing valves, wells, booster/lift station maintenance, quality assurance (inspection), and safety programs. There is also effort in identifying the best technologies and best practices.

Other new initiatives that were begun recently include a pressure management team meeting to identify and correct the root of non-revenue

losses. Gilmore said they also scheduled recurring meetings with Rota and Tinian to discuss leaks and other island needs that might impact non-revenue water loss.

He said Wastewater and Engineering are initiating a wastewater connections audit to determine if there are more unknown connections and service lateral failures that may not be known.

Gilmore said the reason for this is the number of wastewater billing complaints coming in from customers that are indicating they are not wastewater customers.

He said they had also initiated a water audit, with Kagman targeted for that effort. (Ferdie De La Torre)



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# It is still flu season, folks

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

There has been an increase in the number of influenza B cases in the CNMI, with the islands still in the flu season.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. spokesperson Zoe Travis confirmed that it is flu season in the CNMI right now so there has been an increase in the number of influenza B cases.

Influenza is a potentially serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death in rare cases.

CHCC is urging all CNMI residents over 6 months old to get their annual flu vaccine, otherwise known as the “flu shot.”

The flu shot is not recommended for those under 6 months of age, who must instead rely on “herd immunity,” which means people around

them protect them from the flu by being vaccinated and staying healthy.

CHCC states that getting vaccinated also helps to prevent the spread of the flu to the very young and very ill who may not be able to get the flu shot, such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.

Flu season typically starts in September of one year and ends the following spring, around late March, so it is important for everyone to stay updated on flu shots.

Since every flu season is different, and the flu affects people differently, each season, the seasonal flu vaccine is updated to better match the flu viruses that are expected to be most common during that flu season.

However, getting the flu shot does exempt one from getting the flu. There are times when people who have gotten the flu shot will still get the flu, but those cases are still rarer than getting the actual flu infection.

Moreover, even if those people are

infected with the flu even after vaccination, they tend to not get as sick as those who get the flu and never been vaccinated with the flu shot beforehand.

The more people in the community who are vaccinated, the stronger the net of protection grows, according to CHCC.

For questions regarding flu vaccination, including where to get one, contact the CHCC Immunization Clinic at 236-8745.

## GUAM BRIEFS

### US Naval Base Guam extends base sponsorship to VHIC holders

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Effective Jan. 21, U.S. Naval Base Guam will begin extending sponsorship privileges for veterans who fall under the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act.

The new sponsorship privileges will allow authorized veteran card holders to sponsor up to three guests with valid identification onto NBG installations.

Veterans must have a Veterans Health Identification Card registered with the NBG Visitor Control Center into the Defense Biometric Identification System to request for sponsorship.

All guests requesting access to NBG properties must present a REAL ID-compliant identification card when applying for access at the VCC and must complete all base access requirements. Guests who do not have a REAL ID may request

base access by presenting a valid U.S. passport as an authorized alternate identification.

For a full list of documents you can use to apply for a REAL ID go to <https://www.guamtax.com/help/realIDpolicy.html>.

Guests must be accompanied by their sponsor at all times and cannot be left unattended or sponsor privileges may be revoked.

The NBG VCC Guest Services hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm and every other Wednesday from 9am to 2pm. The NBG VCC Contractor Services hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 7am to 4pm and every other Wednesday from 7am to 2pm.

Both contractor and guest services are closed on weekends and federal holidays.

Veterans with questions regarding the base sponsorship program are encouraged to contact the VCC at 339-6217/5208/1280/1380. **(PR)**

### Military trainings set

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 9am to 5pm Jan. 20 in Agat Bay. Residents and boat operators in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on Jan. 21-23 in Dandan-Malojloj, Radio Barrigada, and South Finegayan, Dededo. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 2pm to 11:55pm on Jan. 21 in Warning Area 517. All vessels are advised to remain clear of the area as this training will be accompanied by the use of lasers and live ammunition.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training from 5pm - 11:55pm on Jan. 21 in W-517. All vessels are request-

ed to remain clear of the training area as this training will be accompanied by the use of lasers.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

The U.S., Royal Australian Air Force, the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and the Republic of Korea Navy will be participating in exercise Sea Dragon from 4:30am to 11:59pm on Jan. 22-26 in W-517 and open ocean bounded by the following coordinates: 15°00'N/144°20'E, 15°00'N/144°40'E, 14°00'N/144°40'E, 14°00'N/144°20'E.

All vessels are advised to remain clear of the above coordinates while training operations are taking place.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 8pm to 11:55pm on Jan. 22 at the following coordinates:

13°26'N/145°08'E, 13°42'N/144°36'E. All vessels are advised to remain clear of these coordinates as this training will be accompanied by the use of live ammunition.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 5am to 4pm on Jan. 23 in Outer Apra Harbor.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training from 5pm to 11:55pm on Jan. 23 in Outer Apra Harbor.

These trainings will be accompanied by the use of blanks.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents and boat operators in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators also monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. **(PR)**

## EX-LAWMAKER

From Page 1

reading of the charges, waived advisement of his constitutional rights, and pleaded not guilty.

The Office of the Public Auditor investigated the matter. Hinds filed the original information last Dec. 18, but this was later amended due to a typographical error.

According to the amended information, Sablan, who was then-serving in the CNMI House of Representatives for the 20<sup>th</sup> Legislature, lied or gave inaccurate information on his Statement of Financial Interest for 2017 and 2018, which he was required to submit under CNMI law. That lie violated the CNMI Ethics Act of 1992, Hinds said.

Hinds said Sablan failed to disclose that he was an “officer, director, associate, partner, proprietor or employee” from which he derived an income in excess of \$2,500 from the Saipan International Shooting Range Inc.

The prosecutor said that Sablan, as a public official in 2017 and 2018, “performed illegal acts under the color of office,” that he willfully neglected to perform the duties of his office when he lied in his Statement of Financial Interest on April 24, 2018 and on May 20, 2019.

Sablan was not arrested and was only summoned last Dec. 18 to appear at the Jan. 6 hearing.

A process server served the penal summons on Sablan at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Supe last Dec. 19.

According to the minute order of the Jan. 6 hearing, Govendo imposed terms and condition for Sablan to comply such as to return to court whenever required to do so, to obey all CNMI and federal laws, not to leave Saipan without the court’s permission, and to stay away from all seaports and airports.

Govendo set a case management conference on Feb. 25, 2020, at 1:30pm where the parties are ordered to be prepared to advise the court whether the matter will be disposed of by a change of plea, trial, or other disposition.

Govendo said the parties should also be prepared to select a trial date.

Sablan, a GOP member, ran for re-election for the House Precinct 1 position in the November 2018 election but lost.

## CHCC

From Page 1

CHCC’s continued failure to settle its outstanding obligation is affecting CUC’s ability to efficiently and effectively provide power, water, and wastewater services to the community, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho in his report to CUC board members during last Thursday’s board meeting.

Last April, CUC disclosed that CHCC’s debt to the utilities agency has already reached \$27.7 million. To assist CHCC in reducing its cost, Camacho said he suggested two approaches for CHCC to consider in order to save water and thereby reduce CHCC’s monthly financial obligation to CUC.

Camacho discussed those alternatives in an executive session, which is closed to the media and the public.

However, in a letter last Dec. 20 addressed to CHCC chief executive director Esther Muña, Camacho suggested that one way for CHCC to cut its water costs is to build a water containment system that would catch rainfall that could be reused for grey water applications.

Camacho said CHCC has an extensive roof system that could be modified to capture rainfall runoff for use in hospital facilities.

He said access to the hospital’s reverse osmosis system, with some chlorination added at the beginning in the catchment tank to assure water quality standards, may provide some measure of relief from water supply costs charged by CUC.

He said the materials would be a one-time capital expense that could be recovered over any number of years.

Camacho said that grey water applications have been used extensively around the world as an alternative for reducing the demand on fresh water sources and also as a way to reduce the overall water supply requirement to the service area being served.

He said the source of grey water is laundry water, showers, and sinks where the water is filtered to remove solids and then sent back to provide flushing for toilets, irrigation for lawns, and exterior washing of driveways, windows, and patios.

Camacho said catchment installation has a price, but would provide savings over the long-term.

## DEFICITS

From Page 1

was not performed.

The auditor said that, of 102 items tested, they noted deficiencies. For one, auditors were unable to determine the existence of three items: a Caterpillar alternator, tractor, and auxiliary equipment (or 3% of items tested)—as the capital asset subledger lacks sufficient description to identify their location and condition.

Furthermore, the auditor said, the corresponding Federal Aviation Administration grant number was not documented for all assets tested.

One item, the Rota visual guidance could not be verified against pictures provided as the asset detail report lacks sufficient description.

Five items have been replaced and as such, assets have been written-off. The five items are security access control system, generator, water catchment, security fencing, and runway grooving.

Thirteen items were not tagged to indicate they were federally funded. The serial number or the vehicle identification number was not documented in the entity’s records, except for five items.

One item, the water tanker was tagged but the tag number and the serial number or the vehicle identification number were not documented in the entity’s records.

The auditor said federally funded FAA assets could not be easily differentiated from other federally funded non-FAA assets.

The auditor said CPA lacks controls such as oversight responsibility

and monitoring over compliance with equipment and real property management requirements. The effect is non-compliance with equipment and real property management requirements.

The auditor recommendation is that CPA should adhere to property management requirements such as performing monitoring activities to ascertain that the results of the annual physical inventory match with the property records and that enough details are included in the capital assets subledger to identify individual assets.

In CPA’s corrective action plan, comptroller Skye Lynn L. Aldan Hofschneider said that CPA is continuing its physical inventory efforts into fiscal year 2019 and expects adjustments to update/reconcile results with the property records.

She said CPA recognizes that these adjustments only partially address this finding in that not all inventory items were reconciled with the general ledger.

Hofschneider said CPA has implemented additional requirements for entering capital assets into its fixed asset system. For each asset entered, CPA includes the serial number, VIN number, or other identification number and the specific location within CPA’s premises.

As to the five items replaced, Hofschneider said CPA will submit a request to the federal grantor to remove these assets from its fixed asset system.

Hofschneider said the CPA Accounting Department is inputting the federal grantor agency into each federally funded asset to easily identify which assets have been federally funded.



## It was a 'day-on' for beach cleanup volunteers

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
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REPORTER

Yesterday may have been a holiday but it was no day off for 50 volunteers who marked the "day on" by cleaning up the Sugar Dock beach in Chalan Kanoa, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The beach cleanup was supposed to be from 8am to 11:30am but, due to the amount of volunteers that were present, it was cut down to two-and-a-half hours, according to site supervisor of AmeriCorps, Calla Eichenberger.

Eichenberger has plans to adjust the time for the beach cleanup next year.

"We need to keep things clean—to bring in tourists and just being a role model to show others how to properly dispose of trash," said Eichenberger.

Yesterday's volunteers were from AmeriCorps, 4H Club, and William S. Reyes Elementary School. Eichenberger said it was nice having students from elementary school through high school gather together yesterday to help clean up and that it's a "great way to simply say we can serve" on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"I want to thank the staff from Parks and Recreation because they came by and helped us pick up trash. Also, I know

that a lot of families do clean up their trash and we want to thank them for what they do," said Eichenberger.

Martin Luther King Jr. is known for his involvement in the American civil rights movement in the 1960s. His birthday—being a federal holiday—is observed by some not as a day off but as a "day on"—or a day of service. King was also an advocate for non-violent methods of protests.

The MLK Day holiday yesterday marks the 25th anniversary of the *day of service* that celebrates the civil rights leader's life and legacy.



Calla Eichenberger, right, poses with volunteers from AmeriCorps and a member of 4H Club after their MLK Jr. beach cleanup at the Sugar Dock beach in Chalan Kanoa last Jan. 20.

JUSTINE NAUTA

### VOX PUPOLI

## What's your dream for the CNMI?

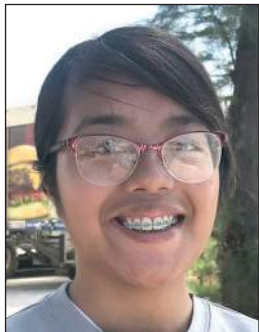
By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday yesterday, we ask the public what their dream for the CNMI is.



"I have a dream that our community will come together and help one another to pick up the trash and keep this island clean."

—**Natasha Quilala, Chalan Kanoa**



"I have a dream that if we come together as one and help serve our community, we can make this a better place not only for us to live in but for our visitors to keep coming back."

—**Andrea Mamauag, Fina Sisu**



"I have a dream that Saipan will come together, from different ages and/or ethnic groups into one community because if we help the community we're basically helping each other."

—**Maria Redor, Susupe**



"I have a dream that this island will keep its culture and, as the years go by, we will all remember where we came from and why this island made us who we are today."

—**Shiann Cabrera, Chalan Piao**



"I have a dream that Saipan will come together as a community and know the importance of serving our community. Also, to make sure that not only our community is clean but to also help each other in different ways that we can."

—**Chelsea Yangirelfil, San Vicente**

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# Ada: PSS priority right now is to restore schools

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Despite operating under austerity for over a year now, the Public School System says its priority is not to lift austerity, but to bring schools back to where they used to be before the onslaught of Super Ty-

phoon Yutu in 2018.

Board of Education member Marylou Ada said in a short interview that, despite the CNMI Supreme Court ruling in their favor and the realization that PSS is owed a substantial amount by the central government, it is still going to take time to lift austerity

at PSS, as it is not the priority right now.

"We need to set our priorities. [Lifting austerity] is going to be incremental. Right now, we are working on what we can do to open up the schools [and make it] safe and environmentally friendly," she said.

Ada told reporters the more pressing need is to ask the central government for additional funding so PSS can operate smoothly, repair school campuses so that half-day sessions can be lifted, and to get teachers their rightful salary prior to the 50% cut in July 2019.

"We're not going to lift the austerity. We're working on keeping our head above water," she said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, PSS is asking for an additional allotment of \$3 million from the central government following the Supreme Court's response to the question of what constitutes general revenue.

Ada said they are working on requesting the 25% that PSS is owed, starting off with an additional \$3 million monthly allotment to reopen schools and to get back on track.

Ada elaborated that the monthly allotment of \$3 million would go to gas for student transportation, personnel salary, classroom repairs, and other operational costs.

This would also allow PSS to retract the 50% salary cut that was implemented back in July 2019.

Ada said they would revisit negotiations once the government is back on its feet and that PSS is owed more than

just \$3 million.

Ada also said PSS is in dire need of the additional \$3 million because they are operating at a bare minimum and PSS is barely staying afloat.

"The cost of running the schools have increased, but our allotments have not increased, it has decreased, so we're really running on bare minimum. That was the whole essence

of trying to get the rightful budget and that's why we went and got a constitutional amendment to guarantee 25% to PSS because we cannot continue to go there and continue to beg for money," she said.



Ada



## AWARDEES

SANTA RITA, Guam—Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Patrick Trevino, from Versailles, Ky., and Legman 1st Class Stacy Oglesby-Peacock, from Nahunta, Ga., are awarded Junior Sailor of the Year and Sailor of the Year during an awards ceremony at Commander, Submarine Squadron 15. CSS-15 is responsible for providing training, material, and personnel readiness support to four Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine commands located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam.

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 KELSEY J. HOCKENBERGER

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### UFO to unveil new bus stop

The United Filipino Organization is inviting the public to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a newly-built school bus stop across the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan on Jan. 22 at 9am.

UFO, in collaboration with SuperTech, has been working on this project since late 2019. The ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday signals the completion of the project.

"I want all the money that we fundraised to go back into the community, so this is our way of giving back," said UFO president Marcelo Masilungan, who also owns SuperTech.

Whoever will be attending the event should be at the site before 8:45am, since they will be having a short program before the ceremony.

According to Masilungan, the UFO got their funds from basketball tournaments they hosted and the recent *Pistang Pinoy*. (*Justine Nauta*)

### SHRM membership meeting set

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter will have a general membership meeting on Feb. 7, Friday, with the venue to be announced later. The meeting starts at 9am with the induction of the 2020 NMI SHRM board members.

Guest trainer will be Fran Sepler, president of Sepler & Associates. Sepler is best known for her pioneering work in harassment prevention and workplace investigations.

### Training topics:

■ 9:30am – 12:30pm:

"Respect in the Workplace." Based on values of respect and fairness, this training focuses on skill building for employees such as: bystander intervention and giving and getting feedback

■ 1:30pm – 5:30pm: "Leading for Respect." Learn how to respond appropriately to concerns and complaints made by employees, focusing on the employee's perceptions of fairness and the supervisor's responsibility to respond with emotional intelligence

This training includes lunch and costs \$50 for SHRM members and \$60 for non-SHRM members. Reserve your seat by contacting Roman Tudela at tudela.roman@gmail.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (*PR*)

### Water service outage in parts of Gualo Rai

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for


portions of Gualo Rai mainly for customers located along Gualo Rai Road on the west side of the Gualo Rai traffic light on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, from 8am to 5pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of this water interruption is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to connect the new 8-inch distribution main to the existing 16-inch main as part of CUC's Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As a result of the waterline replacement, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. (*PR*)

### 2020 Red Cross Walkathon on April 25


The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 2020 Walkathon will take place on April 25, a Saturday. The event will include a 10K walk and lots of fun and games for the entire family. Activities will include a community resource fair, face painting, bounce houses and lots more. For information on the walkathon and how you can support, volunteer or participate, call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or e-mail at nmi-chapter@redcross.org. (*PR*)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT




Happy birthday greetings go out to John Delos Reyes, who is celebrating his birthday today! Happy birthday, Dad! Wishing you a fun day! Love, Jihan Jewel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### CUC-RFP-20-009

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

**One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration*", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email [vivian.santos@cucgov.org](mailto:vivian.santos@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY BOYER SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

#### RFP20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-001

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM**

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INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE ([WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP](http://WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP)). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**/S/ CORAZON P. ADA**  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



# Administration assures public safety 'is paramount'

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the number of crimes, pranks, and suspicious activities being reported around the island, the Torres administration

wants to assure the community that there will always be boots on the ground when it comes to the public's safety.

"We never ever want to see people in our community have fear in their eyes

when they're in their homes," said press secretary Kevin Bautista.

"This last year and a half has been rough [and] we weren't able to put as many boots on the ground, but [the Department of Public Safety] was still able to continue its dynamic outreach," he said. "We still were able to get DPS personnel on the ground to ensure the safety and security of people and motorists on the road."

Bautista added that village patrolling continues to be a priority for DPS.

Just last week, two separate kidnapping attempts were reported, with DPS reminding the community to be more vigilant, and for parents to talk to their children about "stranger danger."

Bautista also spoke about the changing nature of the demand and need for public safety officers in clarifying issues about overtime costs concerning law enforcement.

"Law enforcement is always reacting, but also proactively planning for the inevitable, the inevitable that's also planned out as being

variable," Bautista said. "We don't know what's gonna (sic) happen tomorrow, we don't know what's gonna (sic) happen tonight, we don't know what's gonna (sic) happen in the next hour."

"If they're just about to finish their shift and all of a sudden they get a call that brings them over to Dandan or San Vicente, then, of course, it's going to lead to an overtime cost that we did not properly prepare for, because of the volatile nature of how certain things happen that we can't adequately

plan for."

Despite the restrictions, according to Bautista, "the guarantee from the administration is that there will be boots on the ground", which the DPS has been able to do through police and fire academy cycles.

"It is a public safety issue that we have to watch out for," Bautista said. "This administration is going to continue to look after people who are going after [criminals] and then bring them to justice, working with our court systems, working with the Attorney General's Office, and working with our public safety officers at DPS."

## FOA to stage Christmas-themed musical

The Friends of the Arts' production of *Miracle on 34th Street The Musical* starts tomorrow, Jan. 22. This exciting and heartwarming play, book and score by Meredith Willson, will be performed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week (Jan. 22, 23 and 24).

*Miracle on 34th Street The Musical*, a family-oriented play that is suitable for adults and youth of all ages, is directed by Harold Easton with music direction by Katie Hoyt and produced by Susan Fishman-Tudor for this Friends of the Arts production.

*Miracle on 34th Street The Musical* is based on the 1947 American Christmas comedy-drama that has brought pleasure to its viewers as a movie, as a play and as a musical for over 70 years. In the play, an old man by the name of Kris Kringle fills in for an intoxicated Santa in Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade. Kringle proves to be such a hit that he is soon appearing regularly at the chain's main

## Public warned of dangerous rip currents

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point is warning that there is a high risk of rip currents through Sunday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, surf is projected to build along eastern shores this week.

"Trade-wind swell will cause surf to increase through the week. Larger surf will produce stronger and more frequent rip currents along east facing reefs beginning today and possibly along north facing reefs around mid-week," the EOC advisory said yesterday.

The rip currents will be along east facing reefs of the Marianas. Rip currents will be life-threatening and can sweep even the best swimmers out to sea.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near the reef line, especially along east facing reefs. Strong rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Stay out of the water. (PR)

store in midtown Manhattan. When Kringle surprises customers and employees alike by claiming that he really is Santa Claus, it leads to a court case to determine his mental health and, more importantly, his authenticity. Can his lawyer prove him to be the real Santa? Come and find out!

The play will be presented at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse Theater. All three show dates will start at 7pm. Tickets prices for all four shows start at \$5 for students, \$5 for FOA members, and \$10 for adults. You may purchase tickets from members of the play's cast and at the door or reserve seats/tickets through Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

All members of the community are invited to attend, bring their family and friends, and enjoy the show. The Friends of the Arts would like to offer special thanks to the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and to its sponsors for their support.

The Friends of the Arts is a local community theater organization that promotes performing arts through hosting several plays each year. For more information or to make ticket reservations contact Gibson through email at flgibson@yahoo.com. (PR)

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# Are you ready to win a boat?

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With four big fishing events awaiting the CNMI this year, the Saipan Fishermen's Association has a 16-foot aluminum boat up as a raffle prize for a lucky member of the community to sail on, for the price of \$100 a ticket.

Donated by Mercury Marine, Coral Reef Marine Center Guam, and Morningstar Boats, the boat has a Mercury 60 CT 4-stroke engine with tilt and trim, and comes with handheld VHF radio, anchor and navigation lights, a Bimini Top, and even a trailer.

"We're trying to give back to the community in a way where everyone enjoys and to help the boating community starting [with the] the youth. ... We're surrounded by water, so we might as well take advantage of it. We have the best water in the world and we

gotta (sic) utilize it," said Coral Reef Marine Center general manager Tim Perez.

The raffle drawing date for the boat will be on July 19, 3pm, at the Smiling Cove Marina, on the second day of the 36<sup>th</sup> Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

It is hoped that the tournaments will also be a boost to tourism. Last year, 70 boats entered the tournament—21 from Guam and 49 from Saipan. Based on a survey by the SFA, an estimate on the economic activity just for the two-day international tournament alone amounted to \$160,000.

"The fishing tournament brings a different game to the island. We may have people come over, rent the boats, give [business to] the commercial market rental boats to go fish, whatever is needed to enhance the economy..." Perez said.

Aside from the international fishing tournament, the three

other SFA events include the Shoreline Casting Tournament on Jan. 25 at Minatchom At-dao (for SFA students), the 1<sup>st</sup> Wahoo in the Marianas on Feb 9 at the Smiling Cove Marina, and the 16<sup>th</sup> Mahi Mahi Fishing Tournament on Mar 28, also at Smiling Cove.

Perez is most intrigued by the "Tasi to Table" Youth

Fishing Club, which is SFA's educational outreach program for the youth. From just 16 Da'ok Academy students, the program now has 44 students, with high schools within the Public School System joining in.

"I've never seen this desire for students to want to learn," he said. "It's very hard to find young men or women who liked the water all the time, in a sense. Hopefully, this pro-



Coral Reef Marine Center general manager Tim Perez, left, and Advance Marine owner Masaaki Kobayashi pose for the *Saipan Tribune* at the Saipan Fishermen's Association mixer Friday at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Coral Reef donated a 16-foot *Morning Star* aluminum boat to SFA to be raffled off on July 19, during the 36<sup>th</sup> Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

IVA MAURIN

gram will...either bring back somebody into the marine industry and get into becoming a mechanic or a licensed captain, or a fisherman."

"SFA is doing wonderful things to benefit the fishing community, the boating community, but most especially the youth, the new up-and-

## Be aware of fish poisoning (Ciguatera toxin)

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services would like to alert the public that six people fell ill on Dec. 23, 2019, from suspected fish poisoning (Ciguatera poisoning).

Consumers are warned that ciguatera poisoning is normally seen in predatory fish. Ciguatera fish poisoning commonly occurs in tropical and subtropical area, particularly in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and Caribbean Sea. Any reef fish can cause ciguatera poisoning, but species such as barracuda, grouper, red snapper, moray eel, amberjack, parrotfish, hogfish, sturgeon fish, kingfish, coral trout, and sea bass are the most commonly affected. It is key to note that this toxin does not affect the appearance, odor or taste of the fish and that freezing or cooking the contaminated fish will not prevent the poisoning. Anyone who consumes fish contaminated with the ciguatera toxin will become ill. No anti-toxin is available to treat this condition.

Individuals who consume any fish that contains the toxin can experience many symptoms: tingling and numbness in fingers, toes, around lips, tongue, mouth and throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and or abdominal cramps, joint pains, headache and difficulty breathing. The gastrointestinal or stomach symptoms normally appear within 24 hours of exposure and those of the ner-

coming boaters and fishermen, especially with the Department of Education, the Da'ok Program. It's a great benefit to all, specially to our children," Perez added.

For more information about SFA, or to purchase a raffle ticket, contact SFA president Gene Weaver at 483-4363.

vous system can appear one to two days later.

It is important to note that symptoms usually disappear after a few days but complete recovery happens after a few weeks. Individuals may wish to consult with their physicians to evaluate other potential causes of their symptoms and may also wish to consult when their symptoms are more severe.

For more information, go to <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/fish-poisoning-ciguatera-scombroid>.

To prevent ciguatera poisoning, consumers can:

1. Avoid eating the head, roe or fish egg, liver or other organs of the fishes as it is where the highest level of toxin is present.

2. Eat other types of fish.

3. Avoid eating large sea fish. Limit the weight of a fish to less than 11 pounds as ciguatera fish poisoning occurs more frequently when larger fish are eaten.

4. Individuals should be counseled that consumption of fish, alcohol, caffeine, and nuts within six months of poisoning may trigger a recurrence of symptoms and elimination of these foods from their diet is prudent. They should also understand that future attacks of ciguatera fish poisoning might be worse than the initial illness. Ciguatera is not an infectious disease, and individuals do not develop immunity to the toxin. (PR)

## Watershed workshop to help restoration efforts

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will be having a watershed planning workshop from today, Jan. 21, to Jan. 24, 2020, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in Afetna to discuss Saipan's three major watersheds—the Garapan, Achugao, and Laolao Bay watersheds.

A watershed is an area of land within which all rainfall collects and flows into a single stream.

The workshop is set to provide participants with the understanding of the required components of watershed management plans that would

meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards, as a means of securing federal funds for the plans' implementation.

Expected to attend the four-day workshop are representatives from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Office of Planning and Development, Department of Public Works, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Watershed monitoring results, including water quality, ecosystem monitoring, land use and site remediation, infrastructure and capital improvements will be reviewed and discussed.

An update on the Garapan watershed plan is on

the agenda, as well as planning for the Laolao Bay and Achugao watershed, particularly the mapping of the watersheds to identify ongoing threats and solutions, the development of goals and objectives and of targeted outreach plans, and monitoring and evaluation.

Watershed protection is important as runoff from rainfall washes pollution into streams. Streams then flow into the lagoon or the oceans, and could carry pollution with them.

When streams are polluted, it is important to investigate the surrounding watershed to figure out the specific pollution sources such as over-

flowing sewers, garbage, or agriculture. Once the pollution sources in the watershed are identified, the government, with the community, can work on preventing the pollution to improve the water quality in streams and the oceans.

Thus, projects for watersheds in the CNMI could include flood control and road drainage improvements, reforestation, wetland restoration, site remediation, and wastewater improvement, among others.

BECQ and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have funded the planning and assessment efforts on the three watersheds as a means of securing federal implementation dollars for their restoration activities.

finding new employers for temporary work.

### January 21, 2000

#### Increase in business activity noted

After reaching rock bottom, the local economy is starting to rebound as manifested by the significant growth in the number of business licenses issued by the Department of Commerce during the last fiscal year. Government statistics disclosed a whooping 43.27 percent increase in revenues generated from business licensing fees in FY-1999, from \$721,000 to \$1.033 million. In 1998, the commerce department issued 877 new business licenses or a monthly average of 73 new investments. This is translated into 45 difference or a five percent drop compared with the previous year's tally. Only 1,977 of the 3,731 establishments in 1997 re-

newed their business license in 1998. The highest drop was recorded in December that year when 407 establishments did not renew permit to operate.

#### NMC budget request for FY01 slashed

The Northern Marianas College is faced with another year marred with financial constraints after the Office of Management and Budget slashed its budget request for fiscal year 2001 by \$1.5 million. The OMB has given the college a \$6.8 million budget ceiling for general operations. Majority of the amount will go to teaching and non-teaching personnel cost. The governor's budget office also capped the amount that can be allocated to the college under the Nonresident Workers Fund. Only about 15-20 percent of the total fund, or at least \$1.17 million had been allotted to NMC. Allotment

to the college from Public Law 10-66 will fund its vocational programs. NMC originally requested \$1.57 million for the program.

### January 21, 2005

#### Dentist allegedly assaults businessman

A businessman sued a dentist for punching him over an altercation at a Saipan restaurant, asking the Superior Court for an award of monetary damages. James B. Matsumoto, who owns a financing company, yesterday filed with the court a civil action against Dr. John Ronan, part owner of Toothworks. Based on the complaint filed by Matsumoto's lawyer, Joseph A. Arriola, he went to the AJ's Restaurant on a Friday night last November to meet with another man regarding some business matters. At the restaurant's bar, Matsumoto struck up a conversation with a man whose

friends included Ronan. Matsumoto proceeded to introduce himself to the group.

#### Coral Tree Avenue to be paved soon

Motorists passing along the rough portion of Coral Tree Avenue in Garapan need no longer feel dismayed at the potholes and dust coating the roadway as construction work is expected to be finished soon and the road paved smooth by the end of next week. Department of Public Works project coordinator Bill Wanket said yesterday that the construction crew would begin paving the road on Jan. 28, a project expected to be completed in two days. Construction along Coral Tree Avenue in Garapan has been ongoing for almost two months now. The project has been divided into two sections, with one being the southern part of the road from the mall intersection, while the other is the northern section.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### January 21, 1999

#### \$38,000 bail in rape, kidnapping

A \$38,000 cash bail has been set for the temporary release of 28-year-old Taitano Teruo Achipan who was arrested on charges of rape, kidnapping and assault and battery. Achipan was arrested Tuesday at Express garment in Puerto Rico where he works. Police spokesperson Rose Ada said he did not resist arrest. Achipan is the main suspect in the rape and kidnapping of a 28-year-old Chuukese female from Kagman last Jan. 9.

#### Pickets break up on promise of jobs

Nine Chinese workers picket-

ing in front of the Administration Building finally agreed to disperse yesterday after immigration and labor officials promised to assist them in finding new jobs during a meeting mediated by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The workers, mostly farmers from mainland China, trooped the Capitol Hill Monday just after the governor met with President Clinton's special representative, Edward Cohen, to dramatize their plight for non-payment of wages by their employer on Tinian. Immigration and labor officials spoke to the workers through an interpreter for more than an hour explaining that their case is being looked into and that they will be assisted in



# Board of Education OKs Hopwood renovations

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Board of Education unanimously approved during a board meeting last week renovations to the current Hopwood Middle School campus.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio, board members Marylou Ada, Phillip Mendiola-Long, Herman Atalig, and Andrew Orsini approved the renovation of the 19 classrooms at Hopwood that are still standing after Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed much of the campus in 2018. A total of 35 classrooms were destroyed in the Yutu onslaught.

If all goes according to plan with the renovation project, Hopwood students are expected to go back to their Chalan Piao campus in the next school year.

There was also a motion to approve the proposal to

relocate Hopwood to As Perdidio, the site intended for the construction of the new Hopwood Middle School campus, but the board decided against making a decision on that matter at the moment.

Orsini explained to the board that they would need to get input from parents first before deciding whether to relocate Hopwood or not.

“My understanding is that most of its students reside near that area, so I don’t know how it will work out as far as the logistics, including bus transportation, traffic, and other things, are concerned, if Hopwood will be relocated,” Orsini said.

Atalig said the BOE still has 16 months to provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency a plan for a new Hopwood campus so there is still time to discuss any relocation. FEMA would provide

the Public School System \$23 million for that project.

“So we need to identify the location and move forward.

We have to agree whether to rebuild the school at its origi-

nal site or at different location,” Atalig said.

## Island Girl Power renews Håfa Adai Pledge



Island Girl Power director Juanita Blaz, along with staff, volunteers, and members took the Håfa Adai Pledge, which was administered by Guam Visitors Bureau vice president Bobby Alvarez and GVB staff on Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, at GVB's Holiday Illumination Park in Tumon. **GVB**

## WHO-UNICEF: Effective outbreak response reduces risk of measles spread in Pacific

**SUVA, Fiji**—In 2019, the Pacific saw the re-emergence of measles, with outbreaks declared in Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and American Samoa, and cases reported in Kiribati. For Samoa, the country experienced a widespread measles outbreak which had significant impact upon the country's population and health system. The disease has cost lives, with infants and young children being most affected.

In response to the identification of measles in the region, many Pacific countries and areas have made serious efforts to close immunity gaps in their population and strengthen infectious disease prevention, surveillance and response systems. These efforts align to the core public health capacities required by all countries under the *International Health Regulations 2005*, and critical to preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases, such as measles.

The governments of Samoa, Tonga and Fiji, have conducted vaccination campaigns aimed at closing immunity gaps in their populations to stop the transmission of the virus. These immunization activities are bringing the outbreaks under control. In Samoa, the mass immunization campaign which targeted individuals aged six months to 60 years achieved 95% vaccination coverage, the rate needed to prevent measles transmission in a population. Fiji and Tonga continue immunizing those most at risk of measles

to meet the target of 95% and ensure that populations are protected. Other Pacific countries and areas have also conducted supplementary immunization activities to reduce the risk of potential measles outbreaks.

Due to the public health efforts of Pacific countries and areas, the risk of measles spreading in Samoa and in other Pacific Island countries and areas has notably reduced.

WHO, UNICEF and other partners continue to work closely with Pacific health authorities to respond to new measles cases; strengthen their systems to ensure the rapid detection and response to cases; and increase and sustain high immunization coverage rates for all vaccine-preventable diseases. Additionally, technical collaboration continues to ensure that all have strong health emergency management systems in place at all times.

### Travel advice

WHO recommends that all individuals exercise standard health precautions when travelling abroad. In the Pacific, all individuals travelling between Pacific Island countries and areas, or to and from the Pacific are strongly advised to ensure they are up to date with their vaccinations at least two weeks prior to departing. Travelers should consult with their health provider about their immunization status and other health needs prior to departure. **(PR)**

The Guam Visitors Bureau celebrated a very festive Håfa Adai Pledge ceremony last Friday, Jan. 17, with Island Girl Power at GVB's Holiday Illumination Park in Tumon. As the holiday season and the park came to a close, GVB hosted the event to continue pushing awareness for island pride initiatives planned for the New Year.

“[The] Håfa Adai means many things—friendship, love, and caring. When they are combined with selfless service for the benefit of our community, such as that of island Girl Power, it is an excellent example of what it means to share the Håfa Adai spirit,” said GVB vice president Bobby Alvarez. “Island

Girl Power demonstrates that in their everyday work with our island's youth.”

Island Girl Power aims to create a deeper appreciation and understanding of Guam's culture and natural environment through the Håfa Adai Pledge. Juanita Blaz, Island Girl Power's director, said, “IGP is one of the original groups to take the Håfa Adai Pledge. I found it very important for us to embrace what GVB and community organizations are doing to recognize our culture—one of acceptance and of loving diversity. Our volunteers here today are the cooking instructors, art teachers, self-defense instructors, visiting Navy doctors and nurses who teach about hygiene

and more. We all contribute something to IGP so the girls have a wonderful experience. We love the Håfa Adai Pledge, because it really embodies that and what we are as local people.”

GVB also celebrated the final weekend of the Holiday Illumination display with an afternoon of interactive and cultural activities open to the community and visitors. The event's activities included face painting and body arts, *mwar*-making, and painting hosted by Håfa Adai Pledge partners Picasso Nenis, Fundforte, and Moñeka De Oro.

Island Girl Power is a local prevention program that offers positive activities and role models for young

girls and their families. IGP was founded in 2002 by the Ayuda Foundation. The program's mission is to decrease the occurrence of teen pregnancy, suicide, substance abuse and sexual abuse, while empowering young females to make healthy lifestyle choices for themselves and the island community.

### About

The Håfa Adai Pledge is the cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding program. More than 940 private businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, organizations and local school children have taken the pledge, representing more than 44,000 individuals locally and abroad. **(PR)**

## Franklin Graham to host Marianas Festival of Hope

Franklin Graham is coming to Saipan to share a message of God's love with the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. The *Marianas Festival of Hope* with Franklin Graham will take place at American Memorial Park on Feb. 21, starting at 7pm. Gates open at 5:30pm.

“When [Super] Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan in 2018, it left the people of the Northern Marianas devastated. The property losses have been unimaginable and many people are still living in tents. The feeling of hopelessness is real,” said Manuelito Rey, pastor of Cornerstone Christian Church. “Franklin Graham is bringing good news to Saipan. He's coming to invite people who are feeling helpless to find true and lasting hope through God's son, Je-

» **Festival brings prayer, live music and life-changing message of hope to the Marianas on Feb. 21**

sus Christ.”

Graham is the president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He also leads Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization, which has helped thousands of families on Saipan and Tinian recover from Yutu.

“After the typhoon devastated the Northern Marianas Islands, I sent volunteers to Saipan to deliver more than

80 tons of critical relief items to families suffering on the islands. When our advance team landed, tears started streaming down a woman's face and she said, ‘We had just been praying God would send someone,’” said Graham. “When tragedies like this happen, I believe sometimes God opens the door for us to come back and share the life-changing message of the Bible through the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, so I'm looking forward to encouraging the people of the Marianas with the message that God loves them and has a purpose for their lives.”

This hope-filled event will also feature musical performances by Grammy-winning artist Michael W. Smith and award-winning guitarist Dennis Agajanian, who started

traveling the world with Billy Graham more than 40 years ago.

The *Marianas Festival of Hope* is free and everyone is invited to attend.

In addition to the Festival on Saipan, Graham will also hold the *Guåhan Festival of Hope* in Dededo, Guam, on Feb. 23.

### About

Graham's first evangelistic event was in 1989, and he has already held 291 outreaches in 52 countries since then. In addition to serving as president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Graham has also helped meet the needs of refugees, victims of war and natural disasters, the sick, the poor, and the suffering in more than 100 countries around the world through Samaritan's Purse. **(PR)**



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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### EDITORIAL

## Boeing needs massive culture change

Just a few years ago, an aircraft-industry expert envisioning a possible “game over” future for Boeing would have been inconceivable.

Yet when new Boeing CEO David Calhoun took the reins Monday, that gloomy assessment—from respected analyst Richard Aboulafia—coldly laid out what’s at stake. Boeing’s apparent disastrous pursuit of profits over principles, via a cultural shift away from industry-leading safety standards, has brought a hard reckoning.

Following two crashes that killed 346 people, the revelations of shortcuts and obfuscation illustrate how badly Boeing lost its way. The stock price, which peaked at \$446 just before the second crash last March, has dropped about 25% since then. Abysmal sales figures, idled production lines and the still-parked 737 fleet further tell the grim story.

The public examination of the 737 MAX debacle revealed symptoms of corporate decline that should have triggered drastic change long ago. The 117 pages of internal messages from 2015-18 released Jan. 9 show how deeply mistrust and cynicism spread among Boeing employees. The frank worker-to-worker assessments of shoddy safety oversight, easily misled regulators and profit-driven haste add damning detail to Boeing’s existential crisis.

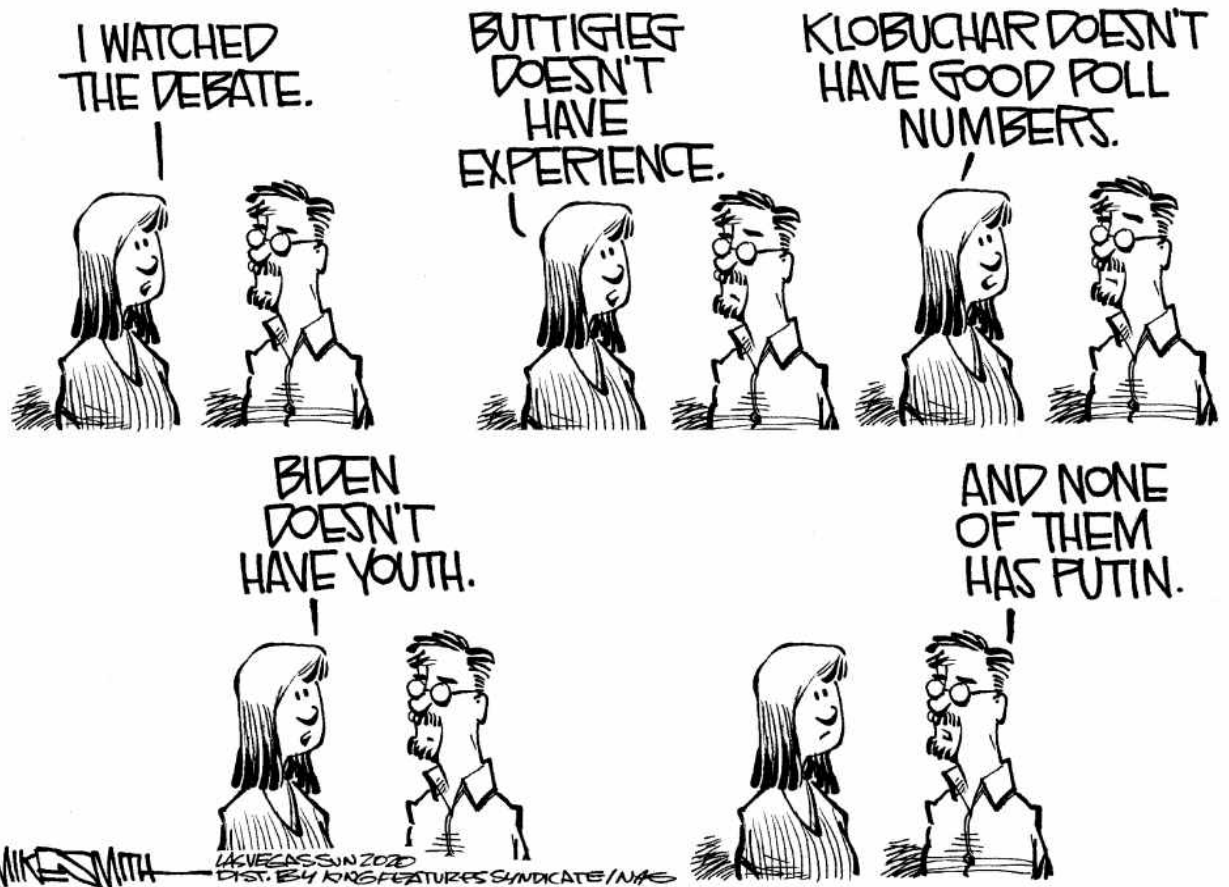
Calhoun and other Boeing leaders must restore the principled vision Boeing embraced for decades atop the world’s aviation industry. The voluntary release of the messages shows Calhoun and interim CEO Greg Smith comprehend the importance of openness.

Follow-through for a change agenda will be more difficult. Calhoun has been on Boeing’s board since 2009 and comes from high levels of the business world. The failures at Boeing trace back to a corporate disregard for thoroughly sound engineering practices. The hard path to redemption requires product investment and the restoration of functional oversight by the Federal Aviation Administration. Cost-cutting must take a back seat to reinstituting diligent processes that once won Boeing global admiration.

Calhoun and Boeing leadership must methodically rebuild the company’s culture and openly state the plan. Employees and stockholders need to see how they fit into the work of righting the company. Washington’s taxpayers deserve a full public accounting as well, because Boeing is still benefiting from an unprecedented tax break.

On his first day, Calhoun sent an open letter to all Boeing employees short on details but long on high-minded goals. The message discussed rebuilding trust and investing in the future to safely return the 737 MAX to service. As part of the “recommitment to transparency” the letter also promised, Calhoun must ensure all workers and managers understand their role in this broad-based change. Boeing’s immense systematic failings require a cultural change that only strong visible leadership can deliver.

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## MLK Jr.'s fight for health care equity must continue

By **BRIAN WILLIAMS** and **MICHAEL W. WATERS**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

America celebrates a distortion of Martin Luther King Jr., void of his prophetic call to justice by any non-violent means necessary. Particularly around the annual remembrance of his life Monday, watch for his words to be repackaged in tasty sound bites and stripped of the so-called extremism that prompted FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to label him “the most dangerous man in America.”

Chicago was a seminal backdrop for King’s work toward justice and the place where he sounded his call for health care justice. Before a medical conference in 1966 he proclaimed, “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death.” National criticism ensued because this activist, two years after he won the Nobel Peace Prize, dared to articulate a prophetic truism still relevant in 2020.

Researchers at New York University found that Chicago has the largest gap in life expectancy of any city in the United States (followed by Washington, D.C., and New York). Although the national trend in the gap between blacks and non-Hispanic whites continues to improve, ZIP codes can still determine life expectancy with alarming racial disparities. Like real estate, health inequality is about location, location, location.

Dallas is another city with a dubious distinction. The Urban Institute ranked it last out of 274 U.S. cities in racial equity and racial segregation. A study by Parkland Health and Hospital System and the Dallas County Health Department found that geography is deeply linked to health inequity, where a difference of 2 miles has a life expectancy gap of 26 years. Although separated by 1,000 miles, Dallas and Chicago share similar systemic inequities that perpetuate racial disparities in health.

These glaring divides are an enduring legacy of decades of isolating black Americans seeking homeownership by marking mortgage lending maps with red lines. Today, more than 50 years since the passage of the Fair Housing Act, 91% of the communities identified as “best” on the redlined maps remain middle to upper class, with 85% of these communities having majority white populations. Accordingly, 3 out of 4 redlined neighborhoods remain impoverished, and 67% of redlined neighborhoods remain populated by racial minorities. Many were intentionally located in proximity to industrial areas, municipal landfills and toxic waste sites—and the subsequent negative health impacts persist across generations.

This lengthy history of systemic inequality will take time to remedy, as will the legacy of distrust of the medical establishment from the history of experimentation without consent on black Americans. A doctor known as the “Father of Modern Gynecology” performed barbaric vaginal operations on enslaved women. They were denied anesthesia, physically restrained, repeatedly mutilated. The U.S. Public Health Service denied 600 men therapeutic penicillin from 1932 to 1972 to allow the study of the natural progression of latent syphilis in the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. Their health was compromised, as were their partners and children who were predictably exposed to the disease. Black women, many of them teenagers, were the prime target for controlled breeding through forced sterilization. This practice of eugenics did not end until the 1980s. And there was the Pentagon-funded study of nontherapeutic, whole-body irradiation from 1960 to 1971, in which 25% of the subjects died within one month of exposure. All were poor, most were black, and the Radiological Society of North America awarded the lead physician its highest honor.

Nearing his death, King was deemed “unfavorable” by two-thirds of Americans in a 1966 Gallup poll. Decades later in a 1999 Gallup poll, more than 90% of Americans had a favorable opinion and ranked him as the second most admired person of the 20th century (behind Mother Teresa). As we celebrate his legacy, we should embrace his prescient view on health care inequity and further his goal of creating a just society for all.

Perhaps King’s greatest threat was to recognize that, from Chicago to Dallas and to other cities and towns across the land, we are more alike than different. He dared to criticize health inequities embedded in communities from urban ghettos to the mountains of West Virginia. And although his life was ended while he was building bridges across racial and ethnic divides, his dream of proper health care for all should not. Because if raising his voice against persistent health inequality made King a dangerous man, add us to that list.

Health inequality remains among the greatest injustices of our time, and, as King penned in “Letter From Birmingham Jail,” “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Like King, let us commit ourselves anew to eradicating these death-dealing realities “until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream” (Amos 5:24).

*Dr. Brian Williams is an associate professor of trauma and acute care surgery at the University of Chicago Medical Center. The Rev. Dr. Michael W. Waters is the lead pastor of the Abundant Life African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas.*



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Trump economy a worry for Democrats

**Y**ou almost felt sorry for them, the six Democratic presidential candidates having their last debate before the Iowa caucuses. The subject of President Donald Trump's razzle-dazzle, historically stunning economy came up. What were they to do? Concede its accomplishments? Demonstrate ignorance? Mouth falsehoods? Or respectfully indulge in fine-tuned analysis granting the obvious while pointing to shortcomings and possible improvements?

Joe Biden quickly skipped the analysis option. Less like a thoughtful statesman than like King Kong thumping his chest, he roared that working and middle class people were "being clobbered, they're being killed." He said he had "support across the board" on this emphatic stance and could hardly wait to debate Trump. Differences with others wouldn't end there, however. A CNN poll shows a 19-year high 76% of the American people believe the economy is either very good or a least somewhat good.

After all, as varied online magazine articles point out, millions of jobs have been created under Trump and unemployment is the lowest in a half century, just 3.5 percent, which is essentially no unemployment; if you want a job, send an email or knock on a door. People who had given up hope and were

sitting at home are getting back in the hunt. African-Americans have experienced their lowest unemployment in history, and people without college degrees have the lowest unemployment rate in nearly 20 years.

The economist Stephen Moore tells us wages have been going up four times faster than what we saw in the slow-walk Obama recovery, but guess what. Apparently paying more attention to Biden than to those in the know, Elizabeth Warren, who is worth \$12 million, said the economy was working only for those at the top, not for anyone else. In lower tones with more nuance, Pete Buttigieg said something similar. Biden, worth something like \$9 million, agreed the wealthy were the only ones doing well. Tom Steyer, the only billionaire in the room, seemed on board and noted he was giving his money away. Bernie Sanders, the owner of three homes, did not say he was giving two away but hissed about the greed and corruption of the corporate elite who are actually doing more for America than the political elite running for president.

What's reported is that income increases during the Trump boom have been greatest at the bottom income level. The new median household income of \$66,000 is the highest in history, meaning the middle class is probably grinning instead of being killed and clobbered. As an example of those in tough situations getting significant boosts, it has been noted that single-parent mothers have seen their pocket books swell by 7.6 percent. The poverty rate, meanwhile, is the lowest in decades.

Trump helped make such good things happen through individual tax cuts boosting consumer confidence, and also a corporate tax cut. It invites investments to our country, makes us more competitive with low-taxed European corporations, brings

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service



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back money to our shores and unleashes corporations to advance their cause by such means as increasing wages. The stated aim of the candidates was mostly to raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy that will slow down the boom while failing to finance ruinously expensive new programs that will increase a massive, threatening debt that is just maybe Trump's greatest failing.

Lumping all six of these candidates together as if they are one would be absurd, of course, and Amy Klobuchar, for instance, separates herself from the others with a seeming attachment to common sense analysis. But most have opposed every good move Trump has made, such as lessening illegal immigration and thereby affording more jobs to citizens already here or deregulating to the point of capitalism almost being capitalism again. A sparkling economy with jobs conferring dignity is crucial to a long list of desired societal ends, far more important for the overall public good than ever bigger government usurping our initiative, trying to control more than it can ever understand and diminishing our liberty.

## Trumpty Dumpty Tweeter Tales

### LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.*

*"Kick him out of office! He's a greedy boy!"*

—**Excerpt from an anonymous samba written in Brazilian and translated by Elizabeth Bishop in 1965.**

### Senators Samba and House Members Mambo

In Washington D.C. where politicians and lawyers fight and are sometimes paid for not doing any work at all many legal and constitutional things are not going right up and down inside and outside every congressional hall. Vote him out of office since the Senate trial may not work Moscow Mitch and cronies stall many a Congressional move Mueller did his best to investigate the lying greedy jerk now the Southern NYC Atty's office is getting in the groove. Atty. Gen. Barr is the horses arse Pompeo's right behind 45 got his nice dream Cohn; his base still stays the same Meanwhile the U.S. and the world are losing their mind As sadly willy-nilly policy making is the name of the game. The House nailed Trump to an impeachable cross The US Senate tries to make the trial a farce and a loss.

### Peace Por Favor, Our Lady of Prompt Succor

A prayer for Peace por favor to Our Lady of Prompt Succor help thousands of innocent children held at the border separated from their parents behind chain link cages innocents denied soap and toothbrushes by presidential order. US citizens and citizens of the world view this as outrageous The unthinking tariff wars cause no economic joy stressed out soybean farmers want their markets back yet praise comes for 45 since low wage jobs employ as President Trump daily causes democracy to crack. Please vote. Stop those who made America hate again he speaking with racist rant and nascent nationalism making stock market signatures with executive pen a creature slouching away from Palestine with neo Fascism no president has denigrated democracy as Trump has.

## I'm turning into my own grandma

**A**s I stood at the stove last Sunday afternoon, cooking sausage, I realized I was: 1) wearing an old robe 2) with an apron over it and 3) had on a sweater over the whole thing.

I am my own grandma.

The only thing missing was a tissue tucked into my sleeve. It was not a casual omission.

Unlike everybody else's ethnic grandmother—"ethnic" here meaning grandmas who did not read Emily Post or dine off the fine china they inherited, or who were rarely glimpsed chewing on a toothpick secured right behind their bridgework—my Sicilian grandmother never had a Kleenex tucked into her sleeve.

Mine had a real linen handkerchief. She carried it in one of her housecoat's gigantic pockets.

You remember housecoats, or as they were more daintily called, "house dresses"? As a phrase, it's no longer widely in circulation. "Casual wear" has replaced it. For my female relatives, "casual wear" implied something altogether different: It meant they could place the white elastic band holding up their orthopedic stockings below the knee. Formal wear (appropriate for baptisms, confirmations, parole hearings) meant the elastic band would have to remain over the knee.

House dresses are still available; I did my research. The only problem procuring them is that you'll need to order from the kind of website where the pitch for their stylishness can be summed up by the following: "Zip-Front Housecoats for Elderly People - Faded Flowers Pattern."

It's as if the editor of Vogue penned that evocative line herself.

One advertisement for housecoats shows six vaguely expressionless women, all around my age. With a smile, a little rouge and dressed in garments looking slightly livelier than gabardine prison uniforms, each one of these women could audition for a role played by Lorraine Bracco or Liza Minnelli. But work is work, and I only hope the six of them went out dancing after the photo shoot.

Back to my grandma's housecoat pockets: Actually, we always went back to my grandma's pockets, because she carried in them everything you would need to get through the day or start life in a new state.

You wanted hard candy, loose change, a little pencil, a bobby pin, a safety pin, a pre-threaded needle, an aspirin, Band-Aids, stamps or rubber bands? She had them on her person at all times. Those pockets carried what are now carried at bodegas.

But not a paper tissue—not in my family. Her use of the hand-

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant



*Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at [www.ginabarreca.com](http://www.ginabarreca.com).*

kerchief wasn't because she had pretensions above her station (our station was Avenue U), but because the Barreca's have always had a fetish for fabrics. My grandmother did piecework at home—finishing buttonholes and doing fine work by hand—and my grandfather was a tailor.

The handkerchiefs might have started life as scraps from dresses made for cotillions or gowns created for debutante balls. It didn't matter.

These handkerchiefs were always carefully folded—never crumpled—in her pockets. Before she performed whatever cleansing ritual was necessary, she opened the square so that the inside of the cloth was used for the disgusting part (nasal discharge, drool, crumbs from a pilfered pignoli cookie). She might well have spit on the handkerchief before wiping off somebody's chin—oh, don't act shocked—but she made certain that any debris was folded on the inside of the fabric.

She had standards.

Keeping dirt, debris and mess in control is why poor women wore house dresses and aprons. The rest of the time, they were cooking, washing, cleaning or giving birth. Of these, cleaning was the hardest.

Lynne Ferrigno, a friend from New York, remembers that one of her aunts, Zi Marie, was famous "for scrubbing the corners of her kitchen floor with a rag. On her hands and knees. With a heart pill on her tongue. When we visited, it was never 'Hello,' it was 'Zi Marie, get up!'"

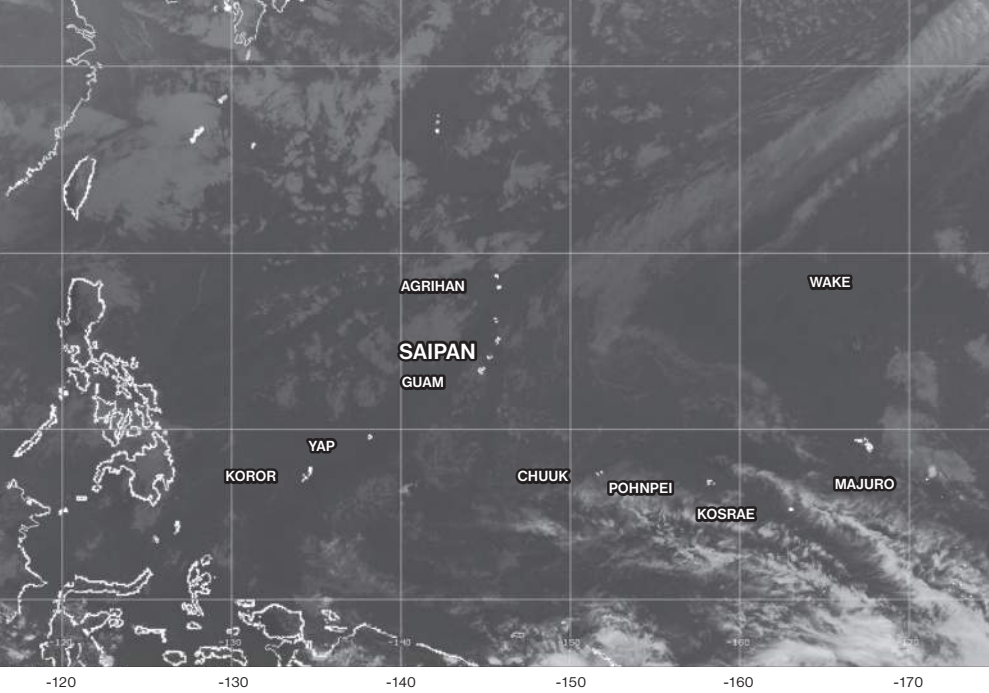
I could do worse than become own grandma, or Lynne's Zi Marie, or any of the strong women who raised us. Our strengths emerged from theirs; we build on their heritage and transform their resilience and competence into our own. We're good at providing, cleaning up and making what we've been given even better than it was.

We have a whole lot of love up our sleeves.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	74°	86°	76°	88°	76°	87°	75°	87°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:23 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates northeast winds of 14 to 21 knots through the lowest 8 thousand feet of the air, which then diminish in speed above that.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°			
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°			
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°			
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	43° / 21°			
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 68°			
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 66°			
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 34°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 50°			
Manila	Mostly Sunny	88° / 73°			
Melbourne	Windy	91° / 57°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	71° / 45°			
New York	Mostly Sunny	36° / 25°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 46°			
Paris	Sunny	43° / 30°			
Busan	Showers	50° / 46°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 39°			
Salem	Sunny	46° / 24°			
San Francisco	Showers	55° / 48°			
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	46° / 30°			
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 39°			
Washington, DC	Sunny	38° / 25°			

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:21 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.47
11:09 AM	LOW TIDE		1.04
4:21 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.72
11:59 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.43

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:18 AM	2:56 PM	-
Wednesday	4:15 AM	3:48 PM	-
Thursday	5:11 AM	4:41 PM	-
Friday	6:04 AM	5:35 PM	-
Saturday	6:54 AM	6:29 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 18, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ623	6:45am	12:10pm	5
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	7:00am	12:20pm	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
				OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U864	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:10pm+1	5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	12:20pm+1	7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	12:10pm	5 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	12:20pm	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	12:15am+1	7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
				UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# Business

## BAB Korean Restaurant opens in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**F**ood, check. Ambience, check. Service, check. Location, check.

British real estate tycoon Samuel Harold coined the phrase “location, location, location” and that couldn’t ring truer to the luck BAB Korean Restaurant got when it secured the former Caesar’s Sauna property in Garapan.

Restaurant manager Lotesa Ferrer said it helps that the new restaurant with somewhat of a steampunk theme is situated along Beach Road, in plain view of island residents and a stone’s throw away from Saipan’s tourist district.

The 200-seat BAB Korean Restaurant opened last Jan. 4 and serves authentic Korean cuisine. There is no scrimping on ingredients, Ferrer said, so everyone who dines at the newly opened restaurant can be sure to taste Korean home-cooking at its finest.

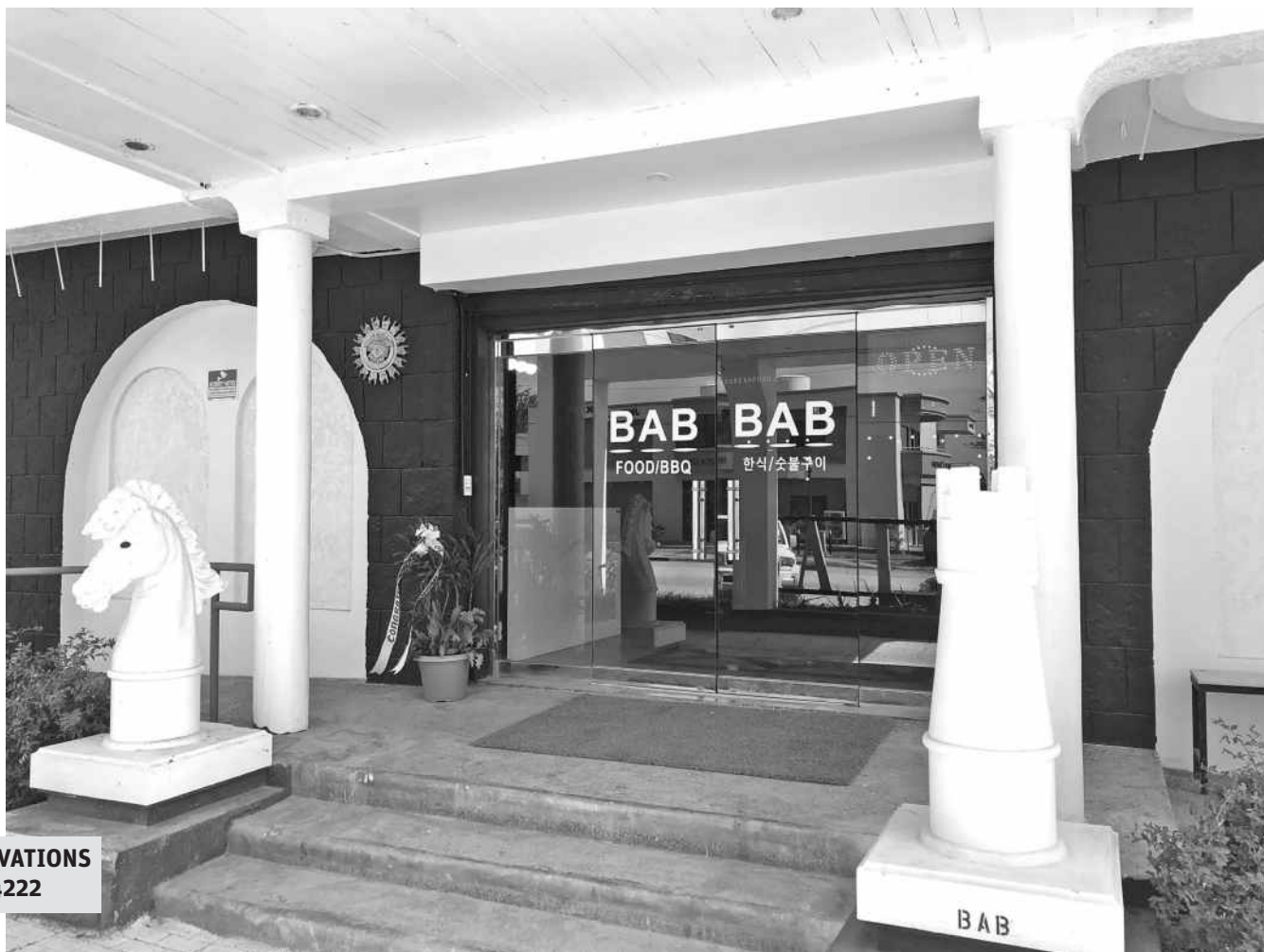
The size of the property alone gives customers who have already dined in the

many Korean restaurants on Saipan a completely new experience—lots of space. In fact, BAB Korean Restaurant is so enormous it has its own “kids zone” with flat-screen TV and several private rooms.

So far, the bestsellers are its *jeoyuk-bokkeum* (stir-fried squid) served with rice and vegetables and *dolsot bibimbap* (hot stone pot bibimbap).

One quick look at its menu and it’s apparent that bibimbap dishes dominate BAB

**FOR RESEVATIONS  
Call 233-4222**



The 200-seat BAB Korean Restaurant opened last Jan. 4 at the old Caesar’s Sauna property in Garapan.

PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO

Korean Restaurant’s offerings. This is not by accident, Ferrer said. “Bab” in Korean is another term for “bap,” which means rice in their language. “That’s the reason why we named it BAB

because we serve a lot of bibimbap.”

Other all-time Korean favorites in the menu include gaibi-tang (short-rib soup), bulgogi hotpot, japchae (mixed dish of boiled bean

threads, stir-fried vegetables, and shredded meat), and dak-bokkeum-tang (braised spicy chicken).

While they’re currently serving ala carte meals for lunch and dinner, BAB Kore-

an Restaurant will also soon offer world-famous Korean barbecue using charcoal.

“Probably this month we will start our Korean barbecue fare for lunch and dinner,” said Ferrer, adding that they have an especially designed adjacent annex for that function.

Other plans in the pipeline are setting up karaoke machines in its numerous private rooms, offering sushi dishes, and a buffet lunch and dinner.

Service is fast, with five waitstaff manning the restaurant and four cooks working their magic in the kitchen.

BAB Korean Restaurant is open Monday-Sunday from 11am to 2pm and 5:30pm and 9:30pm daily. For reservations and for more information, call 233-4222.



BAB Korean Restaurant will soon offer Korean barbecue with charcoal at this annex equipped with top-of-the-line exhaust system.



Tatami dining is also available at the Korean barbecue annex.

## Startups see a market in renting couches by the month

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Zachariah Mohammed’s living room is filled with stuff he doesn’t own.

He pays \$200 a month for the sofa, side table, bar cart, dining table and four chairs in his living room. It’s worth it, the 27-year-old New Yorker says. If he needs to move, which he’s done twice in the last 12 months, he won’t need to lug a sofa across the city or worry if it will fit in a new place. The furniture-rental startup, Feather, will swap out items for something else.

“We don’t want to be stuck

with a giant couch,” says Mohammed, a social media manager at a software company, who lives with his partner and their dog, Remy.

Feather, Fernish and other companies aim to rent furniture to millennials who don’t want to commit to big purchases or move heavy furniture and are willing to pay for the convenience. It’s part of a wave of rental culture that includes Rent the Runway, focused on women’s designer clothing, and even Netflix and Spotify, which let you stream from a huge catalog rather than buy in-

dividual TV show episodes, movies or songs.

“They’re moving a lot. They’re changing jobs a lot,” says Thomas Robertson, a marketing professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, describing the types of people who would use the services. “Why would you want to be saddled with furniture?”

The furniture-rental companies target high-income city dwellers who want a \$1,100 orange love seat (\$46 a month) or \$980 leather bench (\$41 a month)—but only temporarily. The fur-

niture itself is a step up from Ikea.

“I’m 32 years old and have lived in 25 different places, five different countries, 12 different cities,” says Chan Park, who co-founded online furniture rental company Oliver Space last year. He constantly bought and discarded cheap furniture. Then he moved to a furnished rental apartment in Singapore.

“It was probably the first time my adult life that I felt like I was truly at home,” Park says.

These startups are in just a handful of coastal cities,

with few users, but seek to grow. They offer furniture from Crate & Barrel, West Elm and smaller brands.

Others are renting out home goods, too. Rent the Runway recently added West Elm pillows and quilts. Ikea is testing a rental service in several countries outside the U.S., including Switzerland and Belgium.

Renting may make sense for a generation that sees “life as transient,” says Hana Ben-Shabat, the founder of Gen Z Planet, a research and advisory firm that focuses on the generation born between the late 1990s and 2016.

Young people today get

married and buy homes later than they used to, and young people move more than older people do. Still, millennials are moving less than previous generations did at their age, and Americans overall are moving less.

Moving her furniture from New York to Los Angeles would have cost Clarissa Wright \$3,000. Instead, she gave away most of what she owned, traveled in Europe for two months and then rented a couch, bed, mattress, bar stools and other furniture in her new place, for \$255 a month. Feather delivered and assembled everything in one day.



# Nation

## Two police officers die after Hawaii shooting

**HONOLULU (AP)**—A man shot and killed two police officers Sunday as they responded to a home in a leafy neighborhood beneath the rim of a famed volcanic crater near Waikiki Beach, authorities said.

The officers were responding to an address where the

homeowner, Lois Cain, had recently sought to have a man evicted, court records showed. A neighbor told The Associated Press she saw Cain being loaded into an ambulance with knife wounds.

Cain's condition was not immediately confirmed, nor was the suspect's. Flames

emerging from the home soon spread to several others. Honolulu fire said five homes were "complete losses."

"I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family and friends of the two officers as well as the entire Honolulu Police Department," Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell

tweeted. "This is an unprecedented tragedy for not only the City and County of Honolulu but the entire state of Hawai'i."

The normally peaceful neighborhood where shots were fired is at the far end of the Waikiki Beach between the Honolulu Zoo and the famed Diamond Head State

Monument, a volcanic crater that looms above Honolulu and is popular with tourists and hikers. A regional park is also nearby.

Ian Felix, a Honolulu resident and combat veteran with medical training, told the AP he happened to be walking by when he saw a woman lying on the ground with a pool of blood coming from her leg. He applied pressure until the first police officer arrived and put a tourniquet on it, Felix said. Moments later two more officers arrived, and Felix said he then heard two gunshots.

He and the officer picked up the wounded woman and carried her into a neighbor's garage across the street, he said.

According to court records, the man living in Cain's home was Jaroslav "Jerry" Hanel. Neighbors described him as mentally disturbed.

"Defendant does NOT have a Rental Agreement to occupy the premises and Defendant has no ownership interest in said premises," read a complaint for eviction that Cain filed last week in court. "De-

spite repeated demands, Defendant has failed and refused to vacate the premises."

Attorney Jonathan Burge has represented Hanel since 2015 in various disputes with neighbors, including temporary restraining orders that three obtained against him. Hanel, a native of the Czech Republic who used Czech interpreters in court, faced a hearing next week on a charge of misusing 911 services, Burge said Sunday.

Burge said he never knew Hanel to be violent, but that "he's kind of a quirky guy and had problems." Hanel believed the government was watching him and tapping his phone, Burge said.

"Maybe that's what set him off," he said of the eviction.

Hanel lived for free at the home in exchange for handyman work, Burge said. Cain was supportive of him in his disputes with the neighbors, Burge said, but their relationship had soured lately because Hanel's dog had died and Cain wouldn't let him get a new one.

## NY Times endorses Klobuchar, Warren in Democratic contest

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The New York Times has endorsed not one but two candidates for the Democratic nomination for president, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar from the party's moderate wing and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren from the progressive wing.

The paper said Sunday it had chosen the two most effective candidates from the moderate and progressive sides of the party—without stating a preference for either approach. It praised Warren as "a gifted story teller" and Klobuchar as "the very definition" of Midwestern charisma and grit.

When mentioning another front-runner, former Vice President Joe Biden, the Times acknowledged his years of experience, but also noted his age, 77, desire, and occasional gaffes. "It is time for him to pass the torch to a new generation of political leaders," the paper said, borrowing from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address.

The paper mentioned Sen. Bernie Sanders' age, 78, "seri-

ous concerns" about his health and noted his unwillingness to compromise. The paper praised another of the front-

runners, 38-year-old Pete Buttigieg, former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, as likely to have "a bright political future."

The newspaper changed its approach to presidential endorsements this year, airing footage of candidate interviews and details about the endorsement process on a special edition of "The Weekly," the FX network series about the Times.

In previous election years, the Times has often chosen a candidate popular with the party establishment. The Times endorsed Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary in 2016 and over a charismatic but unproven newcomer Barack Obama in 2008.

In 2004, the Times endorsed John Kerry and in 2000 chose Al Gore. Each time they chose a candidate who was popular with the Democratic establishment and, except for 2008, the eventual nominee.



Klobuchar



Warren



### TEST FLIGHT

A Falcon 9 SpaceX rocket lifts off from pad 39A during a test flight to demonstrate the capsule's emergency escape system at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020. No one was aboard for the wild ride in the skies above Cape Canaveral, just two mannequins. The nine-minute flight ended with the Dragon crew capsule parachuting safely into the Atlantic, after separating and speeding away from the exploding rocket.

AP

## Couple together for nearly 65 years die on the same day

**ARNOLD, Mo. (AP)**—A couple who had been together for nearly 65 years have died on the same day at a St. Louis-area nursing home.

Jack and Harriet Morrison's beds were placed next to each other in their final hours, allowing them to hold hands, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Eighty-six-year-old Jack died first. Harriett, who was 83, died later on Jan. 11.

"I'm sad. But I know they're at peace and they're back together," said Sue Wagener, a niece raised by the Morrisons. "It truly was a love story for the books."

The couple went on their first date on Halloween of 1955. "They went to a little diner and never separated from that day on," Wagener said. They married about six months later.

They met as Harriett ac-

companied her father on a trip with the drum and bugle corp he played in. Jack was behind the wheel of a charter bus that drove the group to some of its concerts.

Together, the couple ran and grew V-K Bus Lines while raising Wagener and their two sons.

They were active Moolah Shriners, a fraternal order devoted to philanthropy, and traveled the world next to each

other, often on Shrine-related trips, including to Europe and Australia.

"You didn't see Jack unless you saw Harriet," said Wayne Price, a fellow Shriner.

About a year ago, Harriet tripped while walking their dog, breaking her pelvis and hip, Wagener said. She had dementia, and moved into The Woodlands of Arnold nursing home and rehabilitation center.

## Gun industry gathers amid slumping sales, rising tensions

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Gun companies are gathering for their annual conference and trade show this week in Las Vegas at a pivotal moment for the industry amid slumping sales, a public increasingly agitating for restrictions on access to firearms and escalating tensions over gun control efforts.

The event, held by the National Shooting Sports Foun-

dation, the gun industry's lobbying group, will take place in Las Vegas—about 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) from the deadliest mass shooting modern U.S. history. An estimated 60,000 people are expected to attend, navigating a vast expanse of aisles filled with not just firearms but all sorts of accessories and industry-related apparel.

Gun sales normally taper off

during Republican administrations because gun owners are not as compelled to stockpile weapons out of fear that lawmakers will impose restrictions on firearms. But the past three years under President Donald Trump have been particularly volatile, fueled in part by the Las Vegas shooting and other high-profile mass killings that have driven efforts to either restrict access to guns or to ban

certain firearms and products.

With Congress stymied by gridlock, the most notable action on guns has occurred at the state level in places such as Virginia, where Democrats took control of the statehouse in last year's elections. They are vowing to pass a slate of gun control measures, prompting thousands of pro-Second Amendment activists to plan a rally Monday at the Capitol.



# Asia

## China counts sharp rise in coronavirus cases, 2 in Beijing

**BEIJING (AP)**—China reported Monday a sharp rise in the number of people infected with a new coronavirus, including the first cases in the capital.

The outbreak of viral pneumonia started in the central city of Wuhan.

Authorities and media reports said the total number of infected people has topped 200. Wuhan authorities said a third person had died in their city.

Authorities in Shenzhen in southern China reported one case, and Chinese state media said Beijing had reported two cases.

Wuhan authorities said they had found 136 new cases, bringing the total in the city to 198.

The outbreak has put other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for the Lunar

New Year holidays. Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have already identified at least three cases, all involving recent travel from China.

At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China.

Many of the initial cases had connections to a seafood market in Wuhan, which was closed for an investigation.

Li Gang, director and chief physician of the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, told state broadcaster CCTV that “the infectivity of the new coronavirus is not strong.” Infectivity refers to how rapidly the virus may spread between individuals.

This “does not rule out the possibility of limited human-to-human transmission, but

the risk of continuous human-to-human transmission is low,” Li said. “With the implementation of our various pre-

vention and control measures, the epidemic can be prevented and controlled.”

The Chinese government

is keen to avoid a repeat of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, another coronavirus that started in

southern China in late 2002 and spread to more than two dozen countries, killing nearly 800 people.

## Philippines looks for safer homes for volcano residents

**TAGAYTAY, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippine government will no longer allow people to live on the crater-studded island that’s home to the erupting Taal volcano, with officials warning that living there would be “like having a gun pointed at you.”

The simmering volcano has ejected smaller ash plumes for days after a gigantic eruption Jan. 12 sent ash drifting north over Manila, the capital, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) away. While a larger, explosive eruption is still possible and tens of thousands of evacuees remain in emergency shelters, officials have begun discussing post-eruption recovery.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said officials in Batangas province, where the volcano is located, have been asked to look for a safer housing area, at least 3 hectares (7 acres) in size, for about 6,000 families

that used to live in four villages and worked mostly as tourist guides, farmers and fish pen operators on Volcano Island. The new housing site should be at least 17 kilometers (10 miles) away from the restive volcano to be safe, he said.

The island was long ago designated a national park that’s off-limits to permanent villages. The government’s volcano-monitoring agency has separately declared the island a permanent danger zone, but still, impoverished villagers have lived and worked there for decades.

“We have to enforce these regulations once and for all because their lives are at stake,” Ano said Sunday, adding that closely regulated tourism work could eventually be allowed on the island without letting residents live there permanently.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has approved a recommendation for the island to be turned into a “no man’s land,” but he has yet to issue formal guidelines. After an initial visit last week, Duterte plans to return to hard-hit Batangas province on Monday to check conditions of displaced villagers, Ano said.

The 311-meter (1,020-foot)-high Taal is the second most-active of 24 restive Philippine volcanoes. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology has placed Taal at alert level 4, the second-highest warning, indicating a more dangerous explosive eruption is possible within hours or days due to continuous earthquakes, emissions of volcanic gases, and other signs that magma is rising.

“They lived on the volcano itself with 47 craters. That’s

really dangerous. It’s like having a gun pointed at you,” Renato Solidum, the head of the volcanology institute, told The Associated Press.

Health officials say hundreds of people have been treated for ash-related breathing problems, but no deaths have been directly blamed on the eruption. Ash and volcanic debris have damaged homes near the crater, and the pressure of the magma underground has cracked roads and earth nearby.

Taal left more than 200 people dead in a powerful 1965 eruption, then again exploded in 1977. Government advisories about Taal’s renewed restiveness as early as March last year helped local officials prepare and evacuate thousands of villagers rapidly from Volcano Island hours before the volcano erupted thunderously.

## Thousands-strong Hong Kong protest cut short by clashes

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Clashes broke out between protesters and police in Hong Kong on Sunday, cutting short a rally after thousands had gathered at a park to call for electoral reforms and a boycott of the Chinese Communist Party.

Police fired tear gas near the park, known as Chater Garden, after some protesters attacked men whom they believed to be plainclothes officers, in a return to the violence that has roiled the Chinese territory off and on for months.

Sporting their movement’s trademark black clothing and face masks, rally participants had earlier packed into Chater Garden, located near the city’s Legislative Council building. They held up signs that read “Free Hong Kong” and waved American and British flags.

“We want real universal suffrage,” the protesters chanted. “Disband the police force, free Hong Kong!”

Ventus Lau, the rally’s organizer, was arrested in the evening for allegedly breaching the authorities’ conditions for the rally and repeatedly obstructing officers, police officer Ng Lok-chun told reporters at a news briefing.

Earlier in the day, Lau said he believes more large-scale protests are needed for global



Riot police detain protesters calling for electoral reforms and a boycott of the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

attention to return to Hong Kong, with the protest movement losing some of its momentum in recent weeks.

“I think Hong Kong has not been the focus of the world anymore,” he said, urging other countries to launch sanctions against Hong Kong’s government if it does not allow residents to directly elect Legislative Council members this year.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997. While the framework of “one country,

two systems” promises the city greater democratic rights than are afforded to the mainland, protesters say their freedoms have been steadily eroding under Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Frictions between democracy-minded Hong Kongers and the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing came to a head last June, when proposed extradition legislation sparked months of mass demonstrations.

The bill—which would have allowed Hong Kong

residents to be sent to mainland China to stand trial—has been withdrawn, but the protests have continued for more than seven months, centered around demands for voting rights and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

While the protests began peacefully, they increasingly descended into violence after demonstrators became frustrated with the government’s response. They feel that Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has ignored their demands and used the police to suppress them.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Strong quake hits China’s far west Xinjiang region

**BEIJING (AP)**—A strong earthquake struck China’s far west Xinjiang region Sunday night, the government earthquake agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The China Earthquake Networks Center reported that a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck the region at 9:21 p.m. at a depth of 16 kilometers (10 miles). The quake’s epicenter was 56 kilometers (35 miles) from Peyzawat County and shaking was felt in the cities of Kashgar and Artux, the agency said. The U.S. Geological Survey reported the earthquake’s magnitude as 6.0 and its depth as 11 kilometers (7 miles). The reason for the discrepancy was not immediately clear. Earthquakes occur frequently in Xinjiang, which borders central Asia.

#### Protests against citizenship law continue unabated in India

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—Hundreds of demonstrators perched themselves on the steps of an iconic mosque in the Indian capital on Friday to protest against a new citizenship law that excludes Muslim immigrants. Demonstrators carried placards and shouted slogans accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist government of pursuing policies aimed at forcing people to prove their citizenship and putting Muslims and other people from

marginalized communities at risk. The protest at the 17th century mosque, Jama Masjid, was led by Chandrashekhar Azad, leader of the Bhim Army, a political party of Dalits who represent the Hinduism’s lowest caste. “We will continue protest against the law till repealed,” Azad said as he and hundreds of his supporters read out the constitution’s preamble, which says there should be no discrimination on the basis of religion.

#### Crowded footbridge breaks over Indonesian river, killing 7

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)** — A footbridge on Indonesia’s Sumatra island broke while it was packed with people and several fell into the overflowing river below and drowned, officials said Monday. Seven bodies have been pulled from the water as far as 12 kilometers (7.4 miles) from the bridge that broke Sunday afternoon in Kaur district of Bengkulu province. Rescuers are searching for 3 others, between 14 and 17 years old, still missing and feared dead, said Ujang Syafiri, who heads a local disaster mitigation agency. About 30 people, most of them teenagers, had just returned from a tour at a nearby hydropower plant and stopped on the footbridge to take photos of the extreme flow of the river. “It was apparently (beyond) its capacity. Some teens even had rocked the bridge while joking,” Syafiri said.



# World

## At least 75 flee from Paraguay prison; many from Brazil gang

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—At least 75 inmates, many of them members of a notorious Brazilian gang, escaped from a Paraguayan prison in a border town on Sunday, according to authorities who said they immediately fired the prison's director.

Officials said they discovered a tunnel and found cells filled with as many as 200 bags of earth.

"It's not possible that nobody saw anything in all this time," Justice Minister Cecilia

Pérez told the Telefuturo station. "This isn't the work of one day or one night."

Interior Minister Euclides Acevedo said in a statement that the tunnel itself may have been a ruse to cover complicity by prison officials and that many of the inmates may have been allowed to walk out of the prison's main gate.

Acevedo said the majority of the escapees belong to the First Capital Command based in Brazil, which borders the city of Pedro Juan Caballero,

where the prison is located. The gang was founded in the 1990s inside a Sao Paulo prison and it has extended its influence throughout the country, becoming one of Brazil's largest criminal organizations.

In Brazil, Justice Minister Sergio Moro said authorities were trying to prevent the escapees from reentering the country. "If they enter Brazil again, they will only get a one-way ticket to federal prison," he tweeted.

Brazilian authorities said 40

of the escapees were Brazilian, and said they had passed their names and photos to border police.

Acevedo said national police had been mobilized to hunt for the escapees.

The prison's director and head of security were fired and Pérez said the fight against organized crime isn't only against the Brazilian gang, "but also clearly against all the corruption within our system, which sadly is totally contaminated."

## Prince Harry: 'No other option' but to cut royal ties

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry said Sunday that he felt "great sadness" but found "no other option" to cutting almost all of his and his wife Meghan's royal ties in the hopes of achieving a more peaceful life.

The comments were Harry's first public remarks since his split from the royal family was announced earlier this month. Video of his speech was posted to Harry and Meghan's official Instagram account.

Harry said he did not make the decision lightly and praised his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, and the rest of his family for supporting him and his wife in recent months. He called the decision "a leap of faith" and said he hopes the move will allow him and his family to achieve a "more peaceful life."

During his speech at a charity event, Harry framed the decision as being at least in part because of press scrutiny, saying the "the media is a powerful force."

He said that he and Meghan intend to continue a life of service and that his love and support for the United Kingdom is unwavering, but added that he needed to shed the royal ties he grew up with.

"We're not walking away, and we are certainly not walking away from you," Harry said. "Our hope was to continue serving the queen, the commonwealth and my military associations

but without public funding. Unfortunately, that wasn't possible."

Harry and Meghan plan to spend most of their time in Canada. Beginning this spring they will stop using their "royal highness" titles and will lose all access to public funds once they stop carrying out official functions.

Harry made the remarks at a dinner to support Sente-bale, his Africa-based charity supporting youngsters with HIV. He opened his speech noting that many in the audience had watched him grow up and said he wanted them "to hear the truth from me, as much as I can share, not as a prince, or a duke, but as Harry."

Harry framed the decision to leave as his own, made on behalf of Meghan and their young son, Archie. He said that Meghan shares his values and remains "the same woman I fell in love with."

He spoke of both during his remarks, telling the audience that Archie had seen snow for the first time a few days ago and "thought it was bloody brilliant."

He then turned to his relationship with the queen and other members of his family.

"I will always have the utmost respect for my grandmother—my commander in chief—and I'm incredibly grateful to her and the rest of my family for the support they have shown Meghan and I over the last few months," he said.

## Migrants marooned in Guatemala plan surge into Mexico



TECUN UMAN, Guatemala (AP)—Denis Contreras, a Honduran making a second try at reaching the U.S., laid out the plan Sunday night to his fellow migrants marooned in this Guatemalan border town: First the men will go, then the families and the women traveling alone with children.

More than a thousand Central American migrants were preparing to again walk en masse early Monday across a bridge leading to Mexico in an attempt to convince authorities there to allow them safe passage through the country.

It's a big ask. Over the weekend Mexican troops slammed the welcome gate shut on the Rodolfo Robles bridge as hundreds of migrants pressed forward in an effort to force their way through. Mexican soldiers in riot gear pushed back against the green metal bars of the fence. Nobody was injured.

Contreras, the pint-sized

Honduran leading Monday's charge, said he won't give up. He was already denied political asylum and deported from San Diego, California. But if he returns to Honduras, he said, criminal gangs will kill him or his family.

Around him, hundreds of migrants chanted: "Here we are, and we're not going anywhere, and if you throw us out, we'll return!"

Mexico has stepped up efforts in recent months to prevent migrants from reaching their desired final destination—the U.S.—under threat of trade and other sanctions from President Donald Trump.

As these most recent caravans approached, Mexico sent soldiers to patrol its southern border and monitored the area with drones. Migrants sometimes travel via caravan for greater safety and, they hope, success in reaching the U.S.

Prior caravans have persuaded Mexican authorities

to let them cross the southern border, either for humanitarian reasons or via brute force.

The Mexican government declared its efforts over the weekend a success, saying late Sunday that the migrants' attempts to enter the country in a "disorderly fashion" were "fruitless."

Maureen Meyer, director for Mexico and migrant rights at the Washington Office on Latin America, described the Mexican weekend response as a shift from the way the country handled previous caravans arriving at its doorsteps.

"The Mexican government has made clear they are not offering any visa that could be used to travel north, and that anyone traveling without proper documentation will be detained, sending a strong signal to the Trump administration that the Mexican government is doing its part to ensure that the members of the caravan don't reach the U.S. border," Meyer said.

Honduran migrants gather at a temporary shelter in Tecun Uman, Guatemala, on the border with Mexico, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020. AP

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Bodies of 11 Ukrainians killed in Iran plane crash sent home

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The bodies of the 11 Ukrainians who died when an Iranian missile shot down a passenger plane have arrived in Ukraine on Sunday for a farewell ceremony. They were among the 176 people killed in the Jan. 8 catastrophe, when a Ukrainian Airlines plane heading to Kyiv was brought down shortly after takeoff from Tehran. Iran acknowledged three days later that the plane was mistakenly hit by an anti-aircraft missile. On Sunday, the bodies were brought to Kyiv's Boryspil Airport aboard a Ukrainian air force plane. An honor guard solemnly carried the coffins into the airport terminal, where

they are to stand until the evening for mourners to pay their respects. Nine of the Ukrainians who died were crew members on the Boeing 737-800. Iran admitted to shooting down the plane only after officials in several Western countries said they had evidence a missile caused the catastrophe. Iran's initial claims that engine failure brought down the plane angered Ukrainians, who also say Iran should pay compensation and should be more forthcoming about the circumstances.

#### 10 years after Vatican takeover, Legion in new abuse crisis

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The administrator of an elite Catholic school in Cancun, Mexico, used to take the girls out of

class and send them to the chapel, where the priest from the Legion of Christ religious order would rape them with his fingers. "As some were reading the Bible, he would rape the others in front of them, little girls aged 6 to 8 or 9," said one of his victims, Ana Lucia Salazar, now a 36-year-old Mexican television host and mother of three. "Afterward, nothing was the same, nothing went back to the way it was," she said through tears at her home in Mexico City. Salazar's horrific story, which has been corroborated by other victims and the Legion itself, has sparked a new credibility crisis for the once-influential order, 10 years after the Holy See took it over after determining that its founder was a pedophile.



## Focus



# Rare dinosaur trees saved from Australia fire

By **ROD MCGUIRK**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—Specialist firefighters have saved the world's last remaining wild stand of a prehistoric tree from wildfires that razed forests west of Sydney, officials said Thursday.

Firefighters winched from helicopters to reach the cluster of fewer than 200 Wollemi Pines in a remote gorge in the Blue Mountains a week before a massive wildlife bore down, National Parks and Wildlife Service Director David Crust said.

The firefighters set up an irrigation system to keep the so-called dinosaur trees moist and pumped water

daily from the gorge as the blaze that had burned out of control for more than two month edged closer.

Firefighting planes strategically bombed the fire front with fire retardant to slow its progress.

"That helped just to slow the intensity of the fire as it approached the site," Crust told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"The Wollemi Pine is a particularly important species and the fact that this is the only place in the world where they exist and they exist in such small numbers is really significant," he added.

New South Wales state Environment Minister Matt Kean said the operation had

saved the stand, although some plants had been singed.

"These pines outlived the dinosaurs, so when we saw the fire approaching we realized we had to do everything we could to save them," Kean said.

The Wollemi Pine had only been seen in its fossilized form and was thought long extinct before the stand was found in 1994.

The fire that threatened it was brought under control this week after razing more than 510,000 hectares (1.26 million acres). The fire also destroyed 90% of the 5,000-hectare (12,400-acre) Wollemi National Park, where the rare trees grow, Crust said.

The exact location of

the stand remains a closely guarded secret to help authorities protect the trees.

The Wollemi's survival is one of the few positive stories to emerge from the unprecedented wildlife crisis in southeast Australia.

The fires have claimed at least 28 lives since September, destroyed more than 2,600 homes and razed more than 10.3 million hectares (25.5 million acres), mostly in New South Wales state. The area burned is larger than the U.S. state of Indiana.

But the fire danger has been diminished by rain this week in several areas. The first green buds of regrowth have already emerged in some blacked forests following rain.

In this photo taken early Jan. 2020, and provided Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service personnel inspect Wollemi pine trees in the Wollemi National Park, New South Wales, Australia. Inset, a Wollemi pine tree sapling grows on the forest floor in the Wollemi National Park.

AP



## Overdrive

Subcompact  
Mazda CX-30  
rocksBy HENRY PAYNE  
The Detroit News

The 2020 Mazda CX-30

MAZDA/TNS

**M**azda shoppers might be understandably confused these days. The charming ads—the ones where the kid whispered “ZOOM ZOOM” at the end—have been replaced by a generic “Feel Alive” lifestyle campaign that might as well be selling you tennis shoes.

And the brand’s latest, four-digit CX-30 SUV is an alphanumeric migraine that doesn’t fit in the brand’s simple, single-digit sedan lineup (Mazda 3, 6) or the three-digit SUV silo (CX-3, CX-5, CX-9). Earth to marketing department.

But there’s nothing confusing about the way the CX-30 subcompact SUV drives, looks and feels.

Simply put—and simple is a repeated, positive theme here—this is the best performance subcompact on the market today. Period. So good, in fact, that its comparison set is not the usual mainstream competitors, but luxury subcompacts costing at least \$10,000 more.

Based on the same platform as the sensational Mazda 3 compact hatchback, you will know the CX-30 is different the moment you grip its fat steering wheel and fling it into a corner. Poised and balanced, it’s more hot-hatch compact than hatchback ute.

Its 186 horses is best in the mainstream market, as is the buttery six-speed transmission it’s married to. A few years back I sampled the CX-30’s bigger brother, the compact CX-5, against its upscale peers—Audi Q5, Lexus NX, Mercedes GLC—and nothing could dance with it on road.

Only a subcompact BMW X1—a size down in class, but priced in the CX-5’s \$40,000 neighborhood—bested it.

Now comes the subcompact CX-30 priced a whopping \$15,000 under the premium BMW X1, and I suspect it’s the X1’s match through the twists. This is the type of subcompact SUV that Volkswagen should make off its superb Golf platform—or that Ford should cook up from its Focus sedan. But they haven’t.

VW offers nothing in its class, while Ford’s cramped EcoSport entry is a boxy eggbeater. One of the hottest aisles in autodom, mainstream subcompacts boast a variety of toys like the off-road Subaru Crosstrek, rugged Jeep Renegade, roomy Honda HR-V and funky Kia Soul.

Now it’s got a toned \$23,000 athlete.

But the CX-30 is much more than a fun-to-drive SUV (as refreshing as that is to say). Its simple, timeless design will wear well. It’s no Mazda 3 hatch (the most beautiful compact car ever penned), largely because designers felt compelled to lard the CX-30 with black body-cladding to give it SUV cred. That may protect its fenders from the rare off-road event, but it dulls Mazda’s knife-edge good looks next to full steel-body stallions like the BMW X1.

Still, it’s a looker in Soul Red, and if the cladding bugs you, match it with a darker color like Gunmetal

Gray. The simple elegance continues inside with a sweeping horizontal design familiar to the Mazda 3 hatchback—and to BMW and Tesla.

Like Tesla, its broad dash lines are efficient and uncluttered. Like BMW, the instrument and infotainment screen are driver-focused—the result of fussy engineers obsessed with keeping drivers’ eyes glued to the road.

Over the spaghetti roads of southern California’s Cuyamaca Mountains, everything I needed was close.

a crossover between the Q3 and Q5 called the Q30—huh?) is its suggestion that it is a variant of Mazda’s entry-level subcompact SUV, the slow-selling CX-3.

Yet, the CX-30 is more CX-5 than CX-3. Marketing has its reasons for not calling it a CX-4 in the U.S. (because a different car is called CX-4 in the Chinese market), but they are unconvincing.

Based on a same platform as the Mazda 3 hatchback (not the CX-3), the CX-30 nevertheless gains some

room over the 3 thanks to its taller SUV dimensions. Cargo room is a useful 20 cubic feet and swallows four carry-on suitcases. My 6-foot-5 frame fit in the second row thanks to clever scalloping in the front seatback and roof liner.

I conversed with my 4-foot-11 drive partner with ease from the back quarters thanks to better than BMW X1 interior quiet. And despite our Laurel and Hardy body differences, we both found the seating ergonomics excellent.

The CX-30 bristles with such clever human details, typical of those fussy Mazda engineers. Consider:

■ The rear hatch opening punches a big hole in back for better loading.

■ Engineers tuned the car’s ride to mimic the 5 mm head bob of a human walking.

■ Owners can monitor their car via a phone app.

■ Stereo subwoofers are packed in the car’s corners—just as you would in your house for better sound clarity.

■ Take a corner too fast when in adaptive cruise-control, and the car will automatically sense the high G-loads and slow mid-corner.

■ The exquisite sculpting of the side panels always reflects an S-curve. Zoom zoom.

Standard features include adaptive cruise-control, automatic high beams and other items that you’ll have to pay extra for on a BMW X1.

Such standardization also aids simplicity. In an online-buying age when millennials expect efficiency, the Mazda CX-3 configuration page is blessedly easy with four trim options—each building on the last. My favorite Preferred trim (heated, power seats) can be had for \$28,645.

Such obsession with detail exposes the odd flaw. A black wheel option would better complement the black cladding. Voice recognition is poor. The car’s athletic nature screams for a second engine option like Mazda’s 2.5-liter turbo.

What to do? The black wheels can be bought used off a Mazda 3. Voice recognition is excellent if you plug in Apple CarPlay/Android Auto. And that turbo-4 terror with 250 ponies and whopping 310 pound-feet of torque? I’m betting sales of the CX-30 will be so strong that will allow Mazda to offer another trim (just like they’ve done with the Mazda CX-5, which can be had for less than \$40,000 with a BMW-beating turbo-4).

And when that day arrives, maybe they’ll have figured out how to call it CX-4.

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

## 2020 Mazda CX-30

- **Vehicle type:** Front engine, front- and all-wheel drive, 5-passenger subcompact SUV
- **Price:** \$22,945 including \$1,045 destination charge (\$31,240 AWD Premium as tested)
- **Powerplant:** 2.5-liter inline 4-cylinder
- **Power:** 186 horsepower, 186 pound-feet torque
- **Transmission:** 6-speed automatic
- **Performance:** 0-60 mph, 7.2 seconds (Car and Driver est.); top speed, 123 mph (est.)
- **Weight:** 3,408 pounds (as tested)
- **Fuel economy:** EPA est. 24 city/31 highway/26 combined (AWD)

## Report card

- **Highs:** Sharp handling; premium interior
- **Lows:** Heavy black cladding; turbo-4 engine option, please
- **Overall:** 4 stars

The screen navigation (Apple CarPlay and Android Auto standard) is high on the dash. The deft, multi-way remote rotary-controller (just like BMW) is at my elbow. The i-Activsense surround-view (like Tesla) is in the instrument cluster to monitor cars around me.

More awkward than the CX-30’s four-digit detour from Mazda’s naming convention (imagine if Audi built



# Life & Style

By JAKE COYLE  
AP FILM WRITER

“Parasite” has officially infected Hollywood’s award season. Bong Joon Ho’s Korean class satire became the first foreign language film to take top honors from the Screen Actors Guild on Sunday, setting itself up as a legitimate best picture contender to the front-runner “1917” at next month’s Academy Awards.

The best ensemble win for “Parasite” came over the starry epics “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood” and “The Irishman.” It was a surprise but only to a degree. “Parasite,” up for six Oscars including best picture, has emerged as perhaps the stiffest competition for Sam Mendes’ “1917,” which won at the highly predictive Producers Guild Awards on Saturday.

But “Parasite” was the clear crowd favorite Sunday at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, where even the cast’s appearance introducing the film drew a standing ovation. Yet until the SAG Awards, the many honors for “Parasite” have seldom included awards for its actors, none of whom were nominated for an Oscar.

“Although the title is ‘Parasite,’ I think the story is about coexistence and how we can all live together,” said Song Kang Ho, one of the film’s stars, through a translator.

Because actors make up the largest percentage of the Academy of Motion Picture



AP  
From left, Kang-Ho Song, Park So-dam, Bong Joon-ho, Jang Hye-jin, Choi Woo-shik, and Lee Sun Gyun pose in the press room with the award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture for “Parasite” at the 26th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Arts and Sciences, their picks are closely watched as an Academy Awards harbinger.

But the last two years, the SAG ensemble winner has not gone on to win best picture: “Black Panther” last year and “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” in 2018. And this year’s front-runner, “1917,” more acclaimed for

its technical acumen, wasn’t nominated by the screen actors.

If “Parasite” can pull off the upset at the Feb. 9 Oscars, it would be the first foreign language film to do so.

Before the win for “Parasite,” the SAG Awards were most notable as a reunion for Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston.

## wins at SAG Awards, so do Pitt and Aniston

They each took home awards and celebrated the other’s win.

Pitt is headed toward his first acting Academy Award for his

supporting performance in “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood,” and he added to his front-runner status with a win

from the actors’ guild. Along the way, his speeches have been full of one-liners and he didn’t disappoint Sunday. Pitt, who said he was nursing a flu, looked down at his award and said, “I’ve got to add this to my Tinder profile.”

He added: “Let’s be honest, it was a difficult part. A guy who gets high, takes his shirt off and doesn’t get on with his wife. It was a big stretch.” The audience laughed and clapped, including—as the cameras captured—Aniston, his ex-wife.

Aniston later won an award of her own for best female actor in a drama series for the Apple TV Plus show “The Morning Show.” “What!” she said upon reaching the stage. Aniston finished her speech with a shout-out to her “Murder Mystery” co-star Adam Sandler, whose performance in “Uncut Gems” has gone mostly unrewarded this season despite considerable acclaim.

“Your performance is extraordinary and your magic is real. I love you, buddy,” said Aniston.

Backstage, Pitt watched Aniston’s acceptance speech. After she got off stage, they warmly congratulated each other on their first individual SAG Awards.

## ‘1917’ takes top honor at the Producers Guild Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If the Producers Guild Awards are a true predictor of the Oscars’ best film category, then the World War I film “1917” is poised to come away with the top honor in a few weeks.

The Sam Mendes film won the award for theatrical motion picture at the untelevised ceremony Saturday night at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles. Many in the crowd seemed stunned after Reese Witherspoon announced the winner of the Darryl F. Zanuck Award, which has gone on to win the best picture Oscar 21 out of 30 times—including the past two years, with “Green Book” and “The Shape of Water.”

“This film was inspired by my grandfather, Alfred Mendes, and my hope was to honor his experience,” said Mendes, who co-produced and directed the project. He also said it was his first time attending the awards, and thanked the guild for recog-



AP  
This image released by Universal Pictures shows Dean-Charles Chapman, left, director Sam Mendes, center, and George MacKay on the set of “1917.”

nizing his film.

“This was best experience of my professional life,” he added.

Released late last month, “1917” has made a splash during awards season, including another surprise victory in the best drama picture category at the Golden Globes.

At the PGA awards, the war film bested other con-

tenders like “Ford v Ferrari,” “The Irishman,” “Jojo Rabbit,” “Joker,” “Knives Out,” “Little Women,” “Marriage Story,” “Parasite” and “Once Upon a Time in ... Hollywood.” “1917” has now built strong momentum heading into the Academy Awards on Feb. 9.

In other categories, “Toy Story 4” took home the animation award, “Fleabag”

won the episodic comedy television award and “Chernobyl” collected best limited series.

“Producing a movie takes a village,” said “Toy Story 4” co-producer Mark Nielsen, while fellow producer Jonas Rivera stood beside him.

Multiple special honors were given out throughout the evening for production work including to Octavia Spencer, Netflix’s chief content officer Ted Sarandos, “Friends” co-creator Marta Kauffman, the film “Bombshell,” and Plan B Entertainment’s Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner.

“When I started off as an actor, I wondered about producers, ‘What the (expletive) do they do?’” Pitt jokingly said after accepting the David O. Selznick Achievement Award in Theatrical Motion Pictures. Plan B has been behind “Moonlight” and “12 Years a Slave.”

“I’m now painfully aware

of what you do,” he said. “I commend you all. Our job as producers are protectors, stewards. ... Stewards of the story and protectors of the storytellers. And I find that to be an awesome responsibility.”

Spencer received the Visionary Award, struggling to deliver her acceptance speech through tears. The actress who starred in “The Help” and “Hidden Figures” said acting was her backup plan to being a producer, which was “the dream” for her.

“As an actor, I learned that my job was to find the truth in every scene and bring humanity to the characters I portray,” said Spencer, who runs the production company Orit Entertainment with Brian Clisham. Their company has produced the Apple TV Plus drama series “Truth Be Told,” and Spencer is starring in and producing an upcoming Netflix limited series about Madam C.J. Walker.





Ryan White, from left, Wanda Sykes and Wilson Cruz speak at the “Visible: Out on Television” panel during the Apple+ TCA 2020 Winter Press Tour at the Langham Huntington, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Pasadena, Calif.

# ‘Out on Television’

## tracks evolution of LGBTQ portrayals

Actor Wilson Cruz says a new documentary on the evolution of LGBTQ depictions on television is a “love letter” to the medium’s power.

It’s also a testament to how LGBTQ people and their allies harnessed TV to tell the community’s stories, said Cruz, who along with actor-comedian Wanda Sykes was an executive producer for “Visible: Out on Television.” The five-part documentary will be released Feb. 14 on the new Apple TV Plus streaming service.

“It’s through television that we got to tell the entire society and our own culture what our lives are really like. Because of that amount of authenticity, we were able to move the needle to acceptance,” said Cruz, whose TV roles include Dr. Hugh Culber in “Star Trek: Discovery” and Dennis in “13 Reasons Why.”

“Visible: Out on Television” includes an interview with Ellen DeGeneres about coming out as gay along with her sitcom character, and Adam Lambert discussing his experience as an “American Idol” contestant. The narrators include Janet Mock, Margaret Cho, Asia Kate Dillon, Neil Patrick Harris and Lena Waithe.

Making the documentary gave him a sense of how far the medium and society has come, from invisibility to depictions across a wide number of TV programs, Cruz told a TV critics meeting Sunday. The next step toward progress is getting additional LGBTQ creators behind the camera as writers, directors and produc-

ers, he said.

He also called for less violence toward LGBTQ characters and more fully dimensional transgender characters that add to what’s portrayed on FX’s “Pose,” which stars Emmy-winner Billy Porter.

Cruz was asked why depic-

tions of LGBTQ people of color lagged.

“I don’t know why it took so long, but I’m sure it had something to do with racism,” he said, dryly. “It’s a hunch.”

Before openly LGBTQ characters came to TV, Sykes said, she tried to guess at possibilities.

“Pretty sure Roz is gay,” she said of a character on the 1986-92 sitcom “Night Court.” She reeled off a few other hunches, including Mary Ann from the 1960s sitcom “Gilligan’s Island” and housekeeper Alice on “The Brady Bunch.” (AP)

“Bad Boys for Life” starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence brought in \$59 million in the U.S. and Canada to score a No. 1 debut entering the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. The action-packed, buddy comedy returned for the franchise’s third installment after a 17-year hiatus with popular demand to outlast “Dolittle,” starring Robert Downey Jr., which opened at second with a mediocre \$22.5 million.

Sony Pictures predicted that “Bad Boys” will make around \$68 million over the four-day weekend. The film exceeded expectations, building momentum with favorable reviews including an A Cinema Score and a 76% rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

“It’s a great brand with two terrific stars, a beloved franchise and it feels like summertime in January,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. He said it was a smart move by Sony Pictures to release the film during January,

an unusual month for blockbusters releases but it ultimately “reaped huge benefits.”

“Dolittle” barely topped the World War I film “1917,” which claimed the top spot last week. The Sam Mendes-

directed war film continues to hold strong with \$22.1 million this weekend after going from 11 screens in its first weeks to more than 3,600.

The Oscar-nominated epic wartime film has gained popularity after it won Golden Globes for best director and drama film a couple weeks ago. Saturday night, it won an award for theatrical motion picture at the Producers Guild Awards, which has gone on to win best

picture Oscar 21 out of 30 times, including the past two years.

“1917” is really taking a lot of the oxygen and taking on a life of its own since the Oscar nominations and all of these awards,” Dergarabedian said. “If you haven’t seen ‘1917,’ you’re totally out of the loop for awards season.”

Along with “Bad Boys,” Sony Pictures has two other films in the top 10 at the domestic box office including Oscar-contender “Little Women” and “Jumanji: The Next Level,” which crossed \$700 million worldwide.

In another blockbuster, “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker” topped \$1 billion globally after five weeks. The Disney’s film focusing on the final chapter of the Luke Skywalker saga has also earned more than \$492 million domestically.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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Well-wishers greet UK queen after Harry, Meghan announcement

SANDRINGHAM, England (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II was all smiles as she made her way to church Sunday after a momentous announcement that Prince Harry and wife Meghan would cut almost all of their ties to the royal family in favor of a more private life.

She was greeted by royal supporters as she entered the church near her Sandringham House estate with her son Prince Andrew.

Elizabeth, 93, has been managing a family crisis caused by Harry and Meghan’s determination to spend most of their time in Canada and to completely alter their relationship with the rest of the royals.

In a statement released Saturday evening, she put the best possible face on events by saying: “I want to thank them for all their dedicated work across this country, the Commonwealth and beyond, and am particularly proud of how Meghan has so quickly become one of the family.”

Harry and Meghan will stop using their “royal highness” titles and will lose all access to public funds when they stop carrying out official functions. The news has been greeted with dismay in the Sandringham area, where the queen and her family are familiar figures.

Later Sunday, Harry said

in his first public speech since the announcement that he and his wife were stepping away from royal duties with “great sadness,” but that there was “no other option.”

He called the decision a “leap of faith” and said he hoped it would bring him and his family a “more peaceful life,” adding that he and Meghan intend to continue a life of service. He made the remarks at a dinner to support Sentebale, his Africa-based charity supporting youngsters with HIV, at the Ivy Chelsea Garden in London, and posted a video of the speech to his and Meghan’s official Instagram account.

His father Prince Charles and brother Prince William have so far been silent.

Royal watcher Rosie Viles, who waited for a glimpse of the queen, said she wasn’t shocked by the decision but was upset.

“It’s very sad that he feels that he’s got to stand away from royal duties but he’s obviously made that decision and I think part of that might have been to do with his mum, Princess Diana,” she said, referring to the Diana’s death in 1997 when she being hounded by the press. “I’m sad but it’s his decision at the end of the day and obviously the queen has sorted it all out.”



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Martin Lawrence, left, and Will Smith in a scene from “Bad Boys for Life.”

1. “Bad Boys for Life,” \$59.1 million, (\$38.6 million international).	4. “Jumanji: The Next Level,” \$9.5 million, (\$17 million international).	7. “Little Women,” \$5.9 million, (\$6.2 million international).
2. “Dolittle,” \$22.5 million, (\$17.2 million international).	5. “Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker,” \$8.3 million, (\$10.9 million international).	8. “Knives Out,” \$4.3 million, (\$3.1 million international).
3. “1917,” \$22.1 million, (\$26.1 million international).	6. “Just Mercy,” \$6 million, (\$1.3 million international).	9. “Like a Boss,” \$3.8 million.
		10. “Frozen 2,” \$3.7 million, (\$12 million international).



# Dwayne Johnson remembers his father’s ‘barrier breaking life’

By CHRISTIE D’ZURILLA  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dwayne Johnson is “in pain” after the passing of his father, wrestler Rocky Johnson, who died Wednesday at age 75.

The actor revealed that in a long tribute to his dad posted Friday on Instagram, in which he remembered Rocky’s “bar-

rier breaking life” as half of the “Soul Patrol,” the first black tag-team in professional wrestling.

“I was the boy sitting in the seats, watching and adoring you, my hero from afar,” Dwayne Johnson wrote in his caption on a video that showed him in the audience as his father took the ring. “The boy you

raised to always be proud of our cultures and proud of who and what I am. The boy you raised with the toughest of love.

“The intense work. The hard hand. The adoring boy who wanted to know only your best qualities. Who then grew to become a man realizing you had other deeply complicated sides that needed to be held and understood,” he continued.

Rocky “Soulman” Johnson, who was born in Canada, died

at home in Florida, according to the Associated Press.

“He was just under the weather, he thought he had the flu or something,” former pro wrestler Brian Blair told the AP by phone. Johnson had missed a trip to church Sunday with Blair and other ex-wrestler friends. Days later, he was gone.

“Dad, I wish I had one more shot to tell you, I love you, before you crossed over to the other side,” his son \_ who took

the nickname “the Rock” after being trained by his father \_ wrote in his tribute. “But you were ripped away from me so fast without warning. Gone in an instant and no coming back.

“I’m in pain. But we both know it’s just pain and it’ll pass,” Johnson said. “Now I’ll carry your mana and work ethic with me, as it’s time to move on because I have my family to feed and work to accomplish.”

Kevin Hart, Mark Wallberg, ASAP Rocky, Lindsey Vonn, J.J. Watt, D.L. Hughley, Chris Tucker, Mario Lopez, Martin Lawrence and Terry Crews were among those offering their condolences online.

“You lived a very full, very hard, barrier breaking life and left it all in the ring,” Johnson said in closing. “I love you dad and I’ll always be your proud and grateful son. Go rest high.”

## ‘Downton Abbey’ creator’s new TV show is painfully accurate

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The period costumes of a Julian Fellowes drama can be excruciatingly accurate, as an actress in his new series “Belgravia” discovered.

The Epix drama from “Downton Abbey” creator Fellowes and executive producer Gareth Neame is set in 19th-century London and features Tamsin Greig, who starred in the TV comedy “Episodes,” and Philip Glenister (“Cranford”).

Asked if the elaborate outfits were difficult or easy to work in, Greig gave a quick reply.

“Do you think that they look easy?” she said. “I was under the care of an osteopath within a week of filming, and I realized that I should have prepared better by wearing a corset for a few hours each day in the weeks up to beginning shooting.”

It’s impossible to get the silhouette of the 1840s without the binding undergarment that women wore, she said. If the limited series’ actresses look like they’re comfortable, Greig added, “it’s really great acting.”

Alice Eve (“Bombshell”) and Ella Purnell (“Sweetbitter”) also star in the series and joined in a presentation to TV critics Saturday. The six-part

drama will debut April 12.

“Belgravia,” set in the grand London neighborhood of that name, was adapted by Fellowes from his eponymous 2016 novel. Asked to compare the series to “Downton Abbey,” the hit TV drama that unfolded in the early 1900s, Fellowes said the projects reflect the periods in which they’re set.

For the Epix limited series, it’s the “rise of the great Victorian era of manufacturing and money and ... the expansion of London,” he said. “Whereas you could say that ‘Downton’ was on the other side of the hill, it was part of the decline, particularly as we follow it through the ’20s.”

“Belgravia” is a “can-do show,” he said. “It’s really about people achieving what they want, despite the difficulties the society places in their path. ... But I hope it is essentially a kind of uplifting tale.”

Fellowes was pleased by the reception for last year’s big screen version of “Downton Abbey,” which arrived four years after the series ended on PBS, but was noncommittal about the possibility of a second film. He’s got another TV series in the works, “The Gilded Age” for HBO, set in 1880s America.

## Favreau shares photo of George Lucas cradling Baby Yoda. No caption needed



By CHRISTI CARRAS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Broken, the internet is after a photo of Baby Yoda and George Lucas surfaced on social media.

The blurry but adorable snap, posted Thursday by none other than “The Mandalorian” showrunner Jon Favreau, shows the “Star Wars” creator cradling the 50-year-old tyke as if it were his own grandchild—which, in a way, it sort of is?

As with any minor wrinkle in the “Star Wars” universe, the fresh Baby Yoda content sparked a flurry of fan theo-

ries: is Lucas returning to write or direct an episode for “The Mandalorian’s” sophomore season? Does he now have his very own copy of “The Child” in his possession?

The father of “Star Wars” has had some involvement with the Disney+ series so far, and Favreau’s photo does appear to be taken on a studio set, with lots of equipment and people milling about in the background (insert side-eye emoji here).

At the very least, the meeting between the Child and its maker served as somewhat of an olive branch for those conjecturing

about a feud between Lucas and Disney following reports that the famed director was not in attendance at the premiere of the ill-received “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.”

After all, if Baby Yoda can bring even the trolls of the internet together, what can’t the green, force-wielding infant do?

As of Friday morning, Favreau’s photographic gem had amassed more than 500,000 likes on Twitter. Just another day in the life for Baby Yoda, which achieved instant viral status upon its aww-inducing, scene-stealing debut in the first episode of the hit “Star Wars”

spinoff—easily surpassing the popularity of the series’ title character (Pedro Pascal).

Since then, the web has been happily inundated with fan art, memes and homemade merchandise in a Baby Yoda content overload that even the almighty Disney has been struggling to contain.

After it was first accused of trying and failing to control the gif outbreak, the studio giant is now reportedly exerting its copyright power on unauthorized merch—spurred by a gap in the market while fans eagerly await the company’s official “The Child” products.

## Man’s low ambition casts shadow on couple’s future

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a great guy for a year and a half. He's funny, smart, and when he comes to my house, he washes my dishes and plays with my son. He is attentive, and he cooks for me. He is always buying me little things like a desk coffee heater because he knows I love hot coffee, or smart bulbs that create cool colors in the living room. He's a super fun guy, and he often leaves sweet little notes around the house for me.

The downside is, he has zero ambition, zero motivation and no life goals. We are in our early 30s, and I'm a professional with my own home. He lives in a small room in a house with two housemates. His job pays very little, but although he has few responsibilities, he has been very slow to look for other jobs.

Abby, I have talked to him about our future. We both want to be together, but I told him I am not going to support him. We want to move in together, but he needs to be more financially stable. He needs to be my equal.

When we spoke, he agreed with me and the fact that he can do better. He promised he would be looking, but I have been waiting months to see a change in him and—nothing. Should I wait for him? Should I talk to him again? I want so much more, and I am not sure he can deliver. I don't want to stay just because my son loves him so much. What should I do?

HOPELESSLY VEXED

DEAR HOPELESSLY: I understand your position. You seem to want the whole package, and from what you have written, this person is not it. You should not have to support him, and he shouldn't expect it.

It appears that while the two of you care for each other, he simply cannot summon up the motivation to make the effort to better himself financially. Could you accept this in the long run? Is the status quo what you want forever? Bear in mind, if this man moves in, it will prevent you from finding a partner who is your equal in all ways.

DEAR ABBY: My son got married eight months ago. I recently found out he and his wife haven't sent thank-you notes to anyone. Some of our friends and family took time off work, traveled across the country, spent a lot of money on airfare, hotels, meals, as well as wedding gifts. I am mortified.

Abby, there were only 60 guests, so there were fewer than 30 thank-you notes to send. When I asked my son about it last week, he said they hadn't sent them because so much time had passed and it was too late. I told him it was inexcusable, and they need to get those notes written now because this is definitely a case of better late than never.

If they don't do it within the next week, I intend to contact my friends and family and thank them myself and apologize for their rudeness. My son was not raised to be ungrateful and

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

rude. What do you think?

FURIOUS IN ARIZONA

DEAR FURIOUS: What you have in mind may be well-intentioned, but it won't make up for your son and daughter-in-law's lack of courtesy. If they fail to contact the guests who made such an effort to attend their wedding, do not speak up on their behalf because it will only make them look worse.

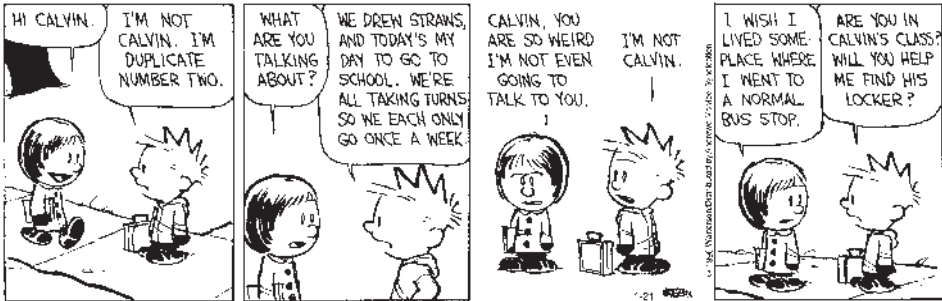
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

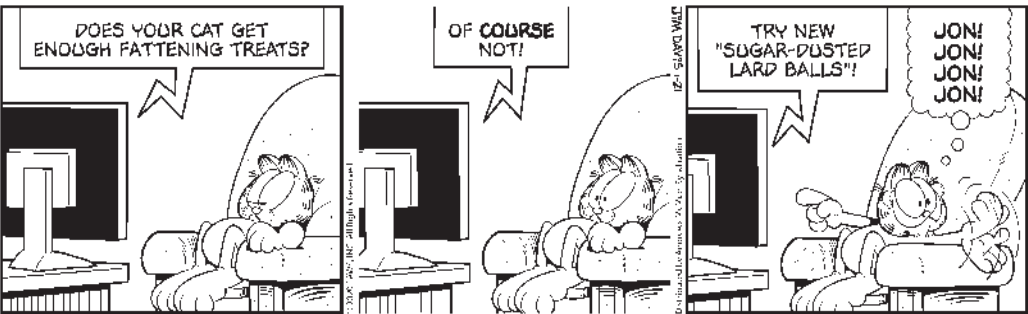
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



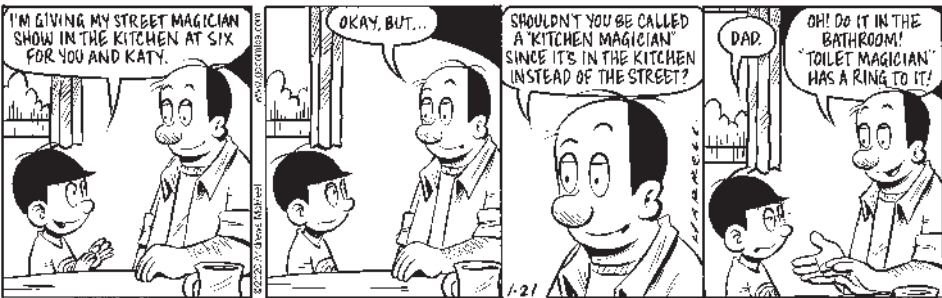
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Hayseed  
5 Docs' org.  
8 Chan-teuse  
12 Press  
13 Standard  
14 Shrek, for one  
15 Worker's compensation  
17 Cook-ware  
18 Gore and Pacino  
19 Hosp. parts  
20 — -ski  
21 Layer  
22 Weep  
23 Lost color  
26 Food lover  
30 On the Baltic, say  
31 "Today" rival, briefly  
32 Pundit's piece  
33 "Walden" writer  
35 A lot  
36 Trail the pack  
37 "Nasty!"

**DOWN**

1 TV host Kelly  
2 Russian river  
3 Lads  
4 Env.  
5 Mimic's contents  
6 PC alter-natives  
7 Noah's boat  
8 "Non-sense!"  
9 Mr. Stravinsky  
10 Jocular Johnson  
11 Own (up)  
12 N.J. neighbor  
13 Ship-shape  
14 "The Good Earth" novelist  
15 Tax prep pro  
16 Bit of butter  
17 Fireplace residue  
18 Zodiac cat  
19 Big bird of Australia  
20 "— Lazy River"  
21 Flushed  
22 Mag. staff  
23 Joke  
24 "Mangia!"  
25 Ella's style  
26 Chip giant  
27 Song for two  
28 Sandwich cookie  
29 Japanese noodle  
30 Takeout order?  
31 Calif-length  
32 Scored 100 on  
33 Fine  
34 Writer's block?  
35 Hogwash

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 1-21**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Boo-boo Stewart, 26; Ashton Eaton, 32; Emma Bunton, 44; Geena Davis, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Put everything in order, free up time and prepare to concentrate on what you want to achieve this year. Refuse to get wrapped up in other people's business, leaving you no time to pursue your dreams. Keep an open mind, but don't be gullible or let someone manipulate you. Be the driving force, not the minion. Your numbers are 2, 16, 24, 27, 31, 46, 49.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take demonstrative action, and you will capture the spotlight. Don't be shy or too proud to ask for help. Concentrate on the result, and enjoy the process of seeing your plans through from start to finish. Simplicity is encouraged. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Address any financial issues that surface. Keeping on top of debt and monitoring what you spend will help ease stress and encourage you to live within your means. Don't let someone take advantage of you. You can't buy love. Offer kindness, not cash. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Procrastinate, and you will end up missing out on an excellent opportunity. Look to someone you respect for guidance, and partner with whoever can contribute at least as much as you, if not more. Don't give in to emotional manipulation. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Visit someone or a place that motivates and inspires you. Take a different approach to how you use your skills. Change your mind or

your direction if that's what will help you reach your goal. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take on a challenge. You have the money to outsmart and outdo any competition you face, so don't hold back when you have so much to gain. Change begins within, so stop waiting for someone to do things for you. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Show kindness and compassion, but don't let anyone take advantage of you or what you have to offer. Size up situations, and set boundaries when dealing with anyone who is pushy, manipulative or excessive. Personal growth will bring the highest return. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Share your ideas, listen to the suggestions made and move forward on your own. Maintaining control of the outcome will be in your best interest. If you join forces with someone, you can expect him or her to take over. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Dig in and get the facts. Knowing what you are up against will make life easier and help you get the results you want. What you do will have a more significant impact on others than what you say. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** A staunch attitude will help you achieve things, and innovation will lead to advancement. Make a move, start a new adventure and redesign how you want to live. Revenge and anger are wastes of time. Embrace new beginnings. ★★★

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Observe what others do, and you'll recognize who you want to stand beside. A disciplined attitude will help you ward off temptation and those trying to get you to move in a risky direction. Choose stability over chaos. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Stick close to home, and sort through any personal paperwork you left undone. An unexpected move someone makes will leave you in a quandary. Rethink your strategy, and rearrange your plans. Avoid an unnecessary dispute. Focus on personal gain. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Uncertainty is growing. Refuse to let someone persuade you to get involved in something that isn't beneficial. Look for other options that will encourage good health and much better mental and financial stability. Let go of what is no longer working for you. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, playful and passionate. You are intelligent and unpredictable.

Visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

Difficulty Level ★★

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**CLEANING OUT YOUR FRIDGE** Solution: 6 letters

G I N H R J U I C E M A K E R  
N S P C E X P I R E D S G S  
I E I U A Z Y T O S S P N R  
S I R T G D E E K N E S I O O  
S R T F I A L L E L E A L P O  
E R Y I R K I I B R T C L S D  
R E E L S M E A U S F O S A E  
D B Y W O T T P B F F H N F  
R H C L A E A O C R U F E I R  
E A D L G R T E E H B E L T O  
B N D E E L D S M P U E V A S  
B D V P E A H A E L I P E R T  
U L M S V I N E G A R W S Y I  
R E S I D U E R E M O V E E N  
T S P O I L A G E G A B R A G

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Aged, Berries, Bleach, Buff, Buildup, Clean, Coffee, Defrosting, Dirty, Doors, Drawers, Dressing, Expired, Freezer, Fresh, Garbage, Grease, Handles, Icemaker, Juice, Ketchup, Lift, Meats, Milk, Mold, Pile, Remove, Residue, Rubber, Sanitary, Scent, Shelves, Spills, Spoilage, Sponge, Spotless, Stains, Temperature, Toss, Vegetables, Vinegar, Wipe, Yearly

**Yesterday's Answer: Logophile**

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# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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T  
EX  
S

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Find today's solution in classified section

WHATZIT? is a 2000 word puzzle game. Created by Andrews McMeel Syndication.



# Mostert lifts 49ers to Super Bowl with 37-20 win vs Packers



**SANTA CLARA, Calif.** (AP)—Coach Kyle Shanahan received the NFC championship trophy from his Super Bowl-winning father Mike and raised it to the sky.

The San Francisco 49ers have gone on a surprising journey from No. 2 pick in the draft to one of the last two teams standing. They have one of the most unlikely playoff heroes to thank for it.

Journeyman Raheem Mostert rushed for 220 yards and four touchdowns to make quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo mostly a spectator, Nick Bosa harassed Aaron Rodgers from the start and the 49ers beat the Green Bay Packers 37-20 for the NFC championship on Sunday.

"I did have a lot of doubters and naysayers," said Mostert, who has been cut seven times in his career. "Now I get to actually tell them, 'Look where I'm at now.'"

"I never gave up on my dreams."

The Niners (15-3) also had their skeptics after winning just 10 games in the first two seasons under Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

But they put pieces and systems in place during those rough two seasons and now have advanced to the franchise's first Super Bowl in seven years. The Niners will play the Kansas City Chiefs in two weeks in Miami when Shanahan tries to join his father as coaching champions.

"It was pretty special," Shanahan said of getting handed the trophy from his father at the postgame ceremony. "To get a trophy handed to you by anyone is really cool. ... It was pretty cool it happened there at the end."

After giving a second thorough beating of the season to Rodgers and the Packers (14-4), the 49ers are the third team to make it to the Super Bowl a year after winning four or fewer games.

Cincinnati did it in 1988 and the Rams 1999, with the Rams the only team to go from four wins to a championship in one year.

"It's still kind of surreal," linebacker Fred Warner said. "With the stuff this team has gone through, this organization, it's special. It's the pinnacle of football right here."

Bosa, the prize for last year's rough season as the No. 2 overall pick, helped set the tone when he ended Green Bay's second drive of the game with a 13-yard sack of Rodgers.

Mostert, a former special teams standout, did much of the rest in a remarkable redemption story for a former



San Francisco 49ers running back Raheem Mostert, right, celebrates his touchdown with quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo during the second half of the NFL NFC Championship football game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Santa Clara, Calif.

surfer who carried the ball only eight times in his first three seasons in the NFL while bouncing between teams.

But he has become a key part of the NFC's top team this year, leading the Niners with 772 yards rushing in the regular season and delivering a performance for the ages in the NFC title game.

## Chiefs 35, Titans 24

In Kansas City, Mo., with his best imitation of a tightrope walker, Patrick Mahomes high-wired the Kansas City Chiefs into their first Super Bowl since 1970.

Oh sure, Mahomes did his usual superb job passing, but it was his 27-yard tap dance down the left sideline late in the first half that gave the Chiefs their first lead. From there, they outran the run-oriented Tennessee Titans and star back Derrick Henry for a 35-24 victory Sunday in the AFC championship.

At last, for the third time overall, the Chiefs (14-4) are Super Bowl bound.

In two weeks in Miami, they will play San Francisco, which rolled to a 37-20 win over Green Bay in the NFC title game.

"I mean, it's amazing. It really is," said Mahomes, who had 294 yards passing and three touchdowns. "To be here, to be a part of Chiefs Kingdom and to be able to do it here at Arrowhead, these

people deserve it. And we're not done yet."

Adding to the joy of the achievement, coach Andy Reid and owner Clark Hunt accepted the Lamar Hunt Trophy — named after his father — emblematic of the AFC title. It was handed over to them by Chiefs Hall of Famer Bobby Bell, with Mahomes and safety Tyrann Mathieu jumping for joy on the make-shift stage.

Next up: chasing the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

"Very excited and very emotional to win the trophy that has my dad's name on it," Hunt said. "Yeah, 50 years were too long, but we're going to another Super Bowl."

"Chiefs Kingdom, we are going to the Super Bowl."

The Chiefs lost in 1967 in the first AFL-NFL Championship Game — nope, it wasn't called the Super Bowl yet — to the Lombardi Packers 35-10. Three years later, one year after the New York Jets shocked Baltimore to lay claim to the AFL being equal to the long-established NFL, Kansas City was back. This time, it was known as the Super Bowl — indeed, Lamar Hunt is credited with coming up with the name — and his Chiefs hammered Minnesota 23-7 with the typical Wild West offensive flair and a staunch defense. Those are characteristics that helped carry KC this season.

Reid isn't as animated as Hall of Famer Hank Stram, who famously urged the Chiefs team to "keep matriculating the ball down the field, boys." Caught up in the moment Sunday, Reid said, "It's awesome," before asking the crowd to chant "How about those Chiefs?"

Moments later, standout tight end Travis Kelce proclaimed, "You gotta fight for your right to party."

There will be plenty of partying on South Beach for Chiefs Kingdom heading into the championship matchup.

"Fired up to go to Miami, got to get on a diet so I can fit into my clothes," Reid said. "Very proud."

As they had done in their past three "elimination" games, the sixth-seeded Titans (11-8) got started quickly. The difference at Arrowhead as opposed to Houston, New England and Baltimore was that the Chiefs had Mahomes, Tyreek Hill, Sammy Watkins and Damien Williams on offense, and a vastly upgraded defense from when they lost in last year's AFC title game. Henry was held to 7 yards rushing in the second half.

"They were doubling all these guys," Mahomes said of his spectacular TD run on which he barely stayed in bounds. "I just ran it and got some good blocking at the end and found a way to get in the

end zone."

A week after they overcame a 24-0 deficit against Houston, the Chiefs had to rally again.

Down 10-0 and 17-7, Kansas City didn't flinch, building a 35-17 lead while controlling the clock with a strong ground game. Naturally, Mahomes complemented that with sharp passing, spreading the ball on short and deep throws. The dagger came with a 60-yard completion to Watkins for the Chiefs' 28th straight point midway in the final period.

Mahomes thrust both arms in the air as the crowd sang Whitney Houston's "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

That somebody will be the 49ers in two weeks.

After taking a 3-0 lead on Greg Joseph's first field goal — with Tennessee's penchant for scoring in the red zone, he hadn't been called upon in his previous four games with the team — the Titans got a huge break. Bashaud Breeland appeared to make a diving interception, but replay review showed the ball hitting the ground.

Helped by consecutive offside penalties and a fourth-down pass to Adam Humphries for his first career playoff reception, the Titans converted on, what else, Henry's 4-yard run.

Then the Chiefs got rolling, scoring on three successive series. Hill took it in on a

shovel pass, later beat top Titans cornerback Logan Ryan for a 20-yard reception, and Mahomes finished the half with his brilliant jaunt down the left sideline with half the Tennessee defense seemingly expecting him to step out of bounds.

That gave the Chiefs a 21-17 lead. It went to 28-17 on Williams' 3-yard run to cap a seven-minute drive. Then Watkins toasted Logan for the clinching long pass.

Henry was held to 69 yards on 19 carries after rushing for 588 yards in the past three games as an unstoppable force.

"I feel like our backs were against the wall the whole season," Henry said. "But we kept on fighting and kept on believing in each other. I think it speaks volumes about the team we have. We just came up short."

The Chiefs easily outrushed the Titans on Sunday. Mahomes led the way with 53 of those yards and also was 23 for 35 for 294 yards passing.

Reid goes back to the Super Bowl for the first time since the 2004 season, when his Eagles lost to New England. That gap is second longest to Dick Vermeil's hiatus.

"So much effort that went into this," said Reid, who joined the Chiefs in 2013 after 14 years in Philadelphia. "It takes an army, it is not one guy at all. I appreciate the effort by everybody."



# Osaka, Williams win openers in Australia

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Naomi Osaka won the tournament's opening match for her dad at the Australian Open. Serena Williams won hers for her daughter.

The first two matches on center court at the Australian Open were all about families for two champions.

For something new, Osaka's father, Leonard Francois, was in the crowd watching as the defending champion reeled off the last four games after dropping serve for the only time to beat Marie Bouzkova 6-2, 6-4.

Next up, Williams started her bid for a first major title as a mom when she beat 18-year-old Anastasia Potapova 6-0, 6-3. Williams has won the title seven times in Australia, and is aiming for an all-time record-equaling 24th Grand Slam singles title. She hasn't added to her career tally since victory at the 2017 Australian Open, and then becoming Olympia's mom. She managed to end one drought last week when she won the title in Auckland, New Zealand — her first since the Australian title three years ago.

"I hadn't been able to win as a mom, so it was nice to finally be able to win a tournament with a 2-year-old now," Williams said of her Auckland win. "I've been pretty close, but it was special for me and for her. I hope for her."

Williams has lost four Grand Slam finals since her last title, and is determined to end that streak.

She won seven straight games until Potapova held serve and changed the momentum — for a little while at least. The Russian got a service break, but broke Williams rallied quickly to get back on track.

Osaka thanked the crowd after her match, saying "You probably didn't come for me, but thanks



AP  
Japan's Naomi Osaka celebrates after defeating Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic in their first round singles match the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020.

for filling up the stadium."

There was one person in particular who was there only for Osaka.

"My dad watched my match from my box for the first time during a Grand Slam," Osaka, who won back-to-back majors at the 2018 U.S. Open and last year's Australian Open, tweeted. "I feel so happy."

She later explained: "He's just superstitious. Because, like, he literally—because, like, before when he used to sit in my box I would just look at him and complain a lot, but I have matured over the past, like, three or four years he hasn't sat in my box."

Father-of-four Roger Federer had a routine 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 win over Steve Johnson in his first tournament of the year, saying he was content with his form after a vacation and some heavy off-season training. He's 21-0 in first-round matches at the Australian Open, where he's won six of his 20 major titles.

Two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova, who lost the final here last year to Osaka, advanced 6-1, 6-0 over Katerina Siniakova on Margaret Court Arena in a mid-afternoon match that continued while

play was suspended because of rain on the the outside courts.

Osaka is aiming to be only the ninth woman to successfully defend the Australian Open title. She wasn't able to do that at the U.S. Open last year, when she lost in

the fourth round, but says she learned some valuable lessons there.

"Definitely, it was really tough for me trying to control my nerves," she said of her first-round win. "I'm really glad I was able to finish it in two."

Other seeded players advancing on the women's side

included No. 13 Petra Martic and No. 14 Sofia Kenin. Martic had a 6-3, 6-0 win over Christina McHale and Kenin beat Italian qualifier Martina Trevisan 6-2, 6-4.

Denis Shapovalov lost an ill-tempered match 6-3, 7-6 (7), 6-1, 7-6 (3) to Marton Fucsovics, who has made a habit of taking out the No. 13 seed in Melbourne.

Shapovalov berated the umpire and received a code violation for spiking his racket after the third set.

"I didn't break it. If I break it, 100% code me," Shapovalov yelled at umpire Renaud Lichtenstein. "You're

not doing your job. You're just finding reasons to code me."

Fucsovics also beat the 13th seed last year at Melbourne Park, that time Sam Querrey in the second round.

"Usually this is not a lucky number, but for me, my favorite number," he said. "I played some of my best tennis today. Everything was working well."

No. 8 Matteo Berrettini and No. 22 Guido Pella also advanced along with Querrey, who beat 25th-seeded Borna Coric 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, and Dan Evans, who rallied from two sets down to beat Mackenzie McDonald 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3.

**LA QUINTA, Calif.** (AP)—Andrew Landry was reeling after blowing a six-stroke lead on the back nine Sunday in The American Express.

"I don't want to be a part of something like that ever again," the 32-year-old Texan said.

He regrouped—telling caddy Terry Walker, "Let's go get this job done, like, quit messing around"—to win his second PGA Tour title with a shot to spare.

Landry broke a tie with Abraham Ancer with a 7-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, the jagged rock-ringed, island-green par 3 called Alcatraz.

"That was probably the shot of the tournament for me," Landry said. "Just to be able to go over there and, to that right hole location, and just hold one up and hit a good distance and have a 7-, 8-footer to look at. ... Thankfully, it went

## Andrew Landry regroups to win The American Express

in and kind of made 18 a little bit easier."

He closed with a 6-foot birdie putt on the par-4 18th for a 5-under 67 and a two-stroke victory, winning two years after losing a playoff to Jon Rahm at PGA West.

"This is a golf course that has suited me very well in the past," Landry said. "And just to look back on some of the things that happened a couple years ago and then now, just to be able to finally get it done. I didn't want to have to go back into a playoff again."

The former University of Arkansas player won after missing seven of eight cuts to start the season.

"That's why you just got to keep grinding it out," said Landry, also the 2018 Texas

Open winner. "We all search for these weeks, and the majority of players out here are going to have them, four, five, six times a year and top-10 players are going to have them a little bit more often."

Trying to become the third Mexican winner in PGA Tour history and first since 1978, Ancer matched the Stadium Course record with a 63.

"All week, really, I hit the ball great off the tee and iron shots, and in the first three rounds, I feel like I didn't score as low as I should have for how good I hit the ball," Ancer said. "But stayed patient and today the putts started to fall in."

Playing two groups ahead

of Landry, Ancer birdied No. 16 and 17 and parred the 18th, missing from 35 feet and saving par with a 4 1/2-footer.

He realized he was tied for lead just before teeing off on 17.

"I wasn't paying much attention to the leaderboard," Ancer said. "And then that's when I noticed and I was like, 'All right, well, we got to make two other birdies.' I made the putt there on 17, which was big, and then just couldn't make it happen on 18. But I played good, man. I'm proud of how I played."

Landry appeared to be cruising to victory when he birdied the first three holes on the back nine to open the six-shot lead. He bogeyed the next

three holes, made a par on the par-5 16th that felt like another bogey, and was tied when Ancer ran in a 25-footer on 17.

"Just kind of calmed myself down and said, 'Hey, look, these are two holes that we can go out and get, they suit my game very well, especially 18,'" Landry said.

Landry finished at 26-under 262. He opened with a 66 on the Stadium Course, shot 64 in the second round at La Quinta Country Club and had a 65 on Saturday on PGA West's Jack Nicklaus Tournament Course for a share of the third-round lead with Scottie Scheffler — four strokes ahead of third-place Rickie Fowler.

The anticipated duel between Landry and Scheffler

fizzled early.

Scheffler bogeyed the par-4 first after his drive went left and rolled back down a hill into a large divot. He also dropped strokes on the par-5 fifth and long par-3 sixth to fall four shots behind Landry. On the water-guarded fifth, his aggressive play with a fairway wood from a downhill lie near a right-side bunker went well left and, after a long chip, he missed a 3-footer for par.

Scheffler shot 70, briefly giving Landry a scare with an eagle on 16, to finish third at 23 under.

"I didn't have my best stuff today," Scheffler said. "Swing felt pretty loose again and got the best of me early and just put myself too far behind."

Fowler had a 71 in the final group with Landry and Scheffler to tie for 10th at 18 under.





# Aldridge, DeRozan help Spurs escape to beat Heat



**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—Patty Mills celebrated his heritage Sunday with a performance that typified his career.

Mills provided a late spark, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points and the San Antonio Spurs held off the Miami Heat 107-102 Sunday.

The win came as San Antonio became the first NBA team to hold Indigenous People Night — a meaningful cause to Mills, who is an Australian of aboriginal descent.

“It’s an important night and it’s really important to Patty,” San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. “For the indigenous people here in Texas it’s important to all of us, but it’s sort of double for him because of his history and his background.”

“He didn’t play like he did because of that; he does that every night. His energy has been there his whole career. It’s who he is.”

Mills had 18 points and DeMar DeRozan added 20 as San Antonio snapped a two-game skid.

Mills requested the Spurs honor his ancestry as well as those of Native Americans, and the franchise obliged on the eve of Martin Luther King Day.

“Besides basketball, it was a win for us to be able to use basketball as a platform to be able to share culture and traditions and you saw it tonight,” Mills said.

Miami’s Duncan Robinson missed a 3-pointer with 10.2 seconds left and the Heat trailing 105-102. Miami fouled Marco Belinelli, who made both free throws to cap the scoring.

“It’s a big moment,” Robinson said. “I want to make that shot for this team. I didn’t do it. I’m disappointed in myself, but it’s nice to know these guys have my back no matter what.”

Bam Adebayo had 21 points, 16 rebounds and six assists for Miami, which had won its previous two games. Goran Dragic added 19 points and Kendrick Nunn had 18.

“I actually liked the way we competed,” said Heat forward Jimmy Butler, who had 16 points.

The Spurs rebounded — barely — after blowing a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter against Atlanta in a 121-120 defeat Friday.

“We fresh off a feeling of letting a game slip away from us,” DeRozan said. “Being right back in that position, just kind of understanding how hard we needed to play down the stretch, how hard it was going to be.”



San Antonio Spurs’ DeMar DeRozan, right, drives against Miami Heat’s Derrick Jones, Jr. during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in San Antonio.

big-time plays.”

In one sequence with just under three minutes remaining, Sabonis helped protect the Pacers’ late lead by fighting through traffic in the low post to grab three offensive rebounds before finishing with a tip-in.

“McDermott killed us. Sabonis killed us,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. “The fourth quarter, they had six offensive rebounds. The very few times they did miss, they just pushed us around, much more physical than us. Disappointing loss.”

Malcom Brogdon and T.J. Warren added 22 points each for the Pacers, who snapped a 10-game skid at Pepsi Center. They overcame a 30-point performance from the Nuggets’ Nikola Jokic to win their fifth straight.

“We just played really well together out there in the fourth quarter,” McDermott said. “We had a lot of shots fall and I thought we did a good job on defense and rebounding.”

Jerami Grant and Will Barton added 16 points apiece for the Nuggets, who were again without injured starters Paul

Millsap, Gary Harris and Jamal Murray.

Denver had the lead for most of the game but was outscored 41-26 in the fourth quarter. The Nuggets missed 10 of 32 free throws and were 3 of 23 from 3-point range while the Pacers connected on 13 of 29 from beyond the arc, including six 3-pointers by McDermott.

“I think we got real relaxed and we didn’t play with a sense of urgency, especially in the second half,” said Michael Porter Jr., who scored 10 points for Denver. “I think we kind of gave that one away.”

Brogdon connected on a 3-pointer in the waning seconds of the third quarter and the Pacers pulled within 81-74 going into the final period.

Successive 3-pointers by Aaron Holiday and McDermott followed by McDermott’s layup evened the score at 91 with 6:59 left. The sides alternated scores in the closing minutes, with the Pacers taking their first lead, 98-97, with 4:13 remaining on a 3-pointer from the corner by McDermott.

Consecutive baskets by Sabonis put Indiana in front 104-99 with 1:30 left and McDermott answered two free throws by Jokic with another 3-pointer as the Pacers pulled out to a six-point advantage with 1:08 remaining. The Nuggets could not close the gap.

## Teague excited to be back with adopted hometown Hawks

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Jeff Teague says he couldn’t be happier to be back with his adopted hometown team.

Teague, in his 11th NBA season, was hoping to return to his original club as a free agent this summer, but a trade from Minnesota two days ago landed him back with the Atlanta Hawks earlier than expected.

No longer a starter, Teague entered Saturday’s game against the Detroit Pistons midway through the first quarter to a modest standing ovation, playing alongside fellow point guard Trae Young, the NBA’s third-leading scorer. The Hawks’ plan, though, is to mostly use Teague as Young’s primary backup.

“I always wanted to come back,” Teague said. “Those things just kind of run through your head. I looked at their team, their need and things like that. I thought they might need me, a backup veteran that can help a little bit and try to help lead the guys. I thought that would be my role.”

Teague, who finished with

15 points and seven assists in 25 minutes in a 136-103 loss to Detroit, kept a home in the metropolitan Atlanta area, even after getting dealt from the Hawks, whom he helped advance their first Eastern Conference finals appearance in 2015, to Indiana after the following season.

“They sent me to a place I really wanted to be at that time,” Teague said. “I’m from Indiana. I got a good chance to play at home. I think with my career, I was able to earn some more money, get a bigger contract and things. My career’s been great. Everything’s been going well. I’m still able to play and play at a high level. It’s all good.”

Teague has admired Young’s game since he was drafted fourth overall two years ago.

“He’s a star, man,” Teague said. “His ability to create shots and make plays for others. One of the top scorers in the league. He’s going to be an All-Star. I think all of us around the team know who he is and I’ve been a fan.”

Mills fueled a late run by diving out of bounds and throwing the ball off Miami center Meyers Leonard to salvage an offensive possession. With cheers of “Patty, Patty,” still ringing throughout the AT&T Center, Aldridge drained a hook shot to pull the Spurs within 98-97 with 4:39 remaining.

A few possessions later, Derrick White used a backhanded stab to deflect and steal an attempted entry pass at the top of the key by Adebayo. That led to a three-point play by Aldridge for a 102-98 lead with 3:20 remaining.

“It was a big play,” White said. “I was just trying to be active, get my hands on the ball and make a play.”

Heat guard Tyler Herro missed the game with a bruised left knee and forward James Johnson was limited to five points in 15 minutes after helping Miami win for just the fourth time ever in San Antonio last season. Johnson had 13 points, five rebounds, four

assists and two steals in the Heat’s 110-105 victory March 20, 2019. Myles Leonard was the only Heat starter not to score in double figures, but he had six rebounds and two assists and was a plus-7 on the court along with five points.

Spurs forward Rudy Gay missed his second straight game with an undisclosed illness. Mills is the 110th player in league history with 1,000 3-pointers and just the 18th second-round pick to do so.

Mills is just the third indigenous player to compete for Australia in the Olympics. He has been active in assisting his homeland throughout his NBA career, especially with the country ravaged recently by brush fires. His work with the indigenous people of Australia led him to become active with the Native American population in Texas.

“He’s just a caring individual,” Popovich said of Mills. “He cares about people, this was something that fit per-

fectly for him and his interests that’s why he carried through with it and tried to bring attention to it.”

## Pacers 115, Nuggets 107

In Denver, despite playing from behind for most of their game against the Denver Nuggets, Domantas Sabonis never felt the Indiana Pacers were out of it.

Sabonis had 22 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double, Doug McDermott scored 18 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and the Pacers rallied late to beat the Nuggets 115-107 on Sunday night.

“I just felt like we were always right there, down 5-6 points all game,” Sabonis said. “I felt like this was the game we needed to get to start the road trip right and just believed in my teammates that we could make that next step. And in the fourth quarter everybody stepped up and made



# Piazza: MLB mess ‘unintended consequence’ of game’s new era



**AP**  
Former New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza poses for a photo under a street sign for newly named Piazza Dr., after a ceremony in front of the Mets spring training facility, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The Mets held a dedication ceremony for Piazza, renaming a street on the renovated spring complex that serves as the home of the Advanced Class A St. Lucie Mets and hub for New York’s rehabilitating players.

A 62nd-round selection in the 1988 June draft, Piazza said he was unaware of MLB’s proposal to trim the draft down to about 20 rounds. “Twenty rounds? I would

have never been here today,” Piazza replied with a laugh. “Look, one thing I know about baseball is that it’s like college. If you have the grades, you’re going to graduate. If you’re talented and you are persistent and you sacrifice and do the right things, you’ll eventually find a way to get there.”

“The game is changing, there’s no question about it. I feel like a dinosaur,” the 51-year-old Piazza said.

The stretch of road on 31 Piazza Drive is a short one, but it stretched all the way to Sicily for Piazza.

“What a tremendous honor, especially being a resident of Florida the last 30 years,” said Piazza, who teared up momentarily during his speech

when recalling his ailing father, Vince.

Santa Lucia, the namesake of St. Lucie County, came from Syracuse in Sicily, the homeland of the Piazza family.

“I wish he was here today to see this because he’s been such an inspiration in my career. He’s not doing well health-wise ... but he called me this morning and wanted to wish me the best,” Piazza said.

The complex’s main stadium will be renamed Clover Park next month after Fiserv purchased the naming rights. A year-long \$57 million renovation project is scheduled to be completed once New York’s pitchers and catchers report on Feb. 10.

## Astros owner Crane expects to hire new manager by Feb. 3

**HOUSTON (AP)**—Houston Astros owner Jim Crane expects to hire a new manager by Feb. 3.

The Astros need a new manager and general manager after AJ Hinch and Jeff Luhnow were fired Monday, hours after both were suspended by Major League Baseball for a year for the team’s sign-stealing scandal.

Crane said Friday that he’s interviewed a number of candidates this week and has some more to talk to in the coming days.

Crane refused to answer directly when asked if former Astros player and Hall of Famer Craig Biggio was a possibility for the job. But he did say that he had spoken to Biggio, fellow Hall of Famer Jeff Bagwell and former Astros star Lance Berkman in the days since the firings.

“We’ve talked to all of our Killer B’s,” Crane said referring to the nickname the three shared while playing for the Astros. “They’ve contacted me and they’ve all expressed that they would like to help. Berkman, Bagwell, Biggio have all called and said: ‘hey, if there’s anything I can do,

I’m here for you.’”

“So we’ll continue to visit with those guys and see if there’s something there.”

Crane says his list is still rather extensive and that he hopes to have it narrowed down by the end of next week. He added that he expects most of Hinch’s staff to stay in place regardless of who is hired.

Crane has enlisted the help of three or four employees to help him with the interview process, including some in Houston’s baseball operations department.

“We compare notes,” he said. “I’ve learned a long time ago that you learn a lot if four or five people talk to a key candidate and you get a lot more information. So that’s what we’re doing.”

Crane’s top priority is finding a manager with spring training less than a month

away, but he said he would start focusing on the search for a general manager after he hires a manager. He expects to hire a GM before the end of spring training.

“We should have another good season with the team pretty much intact ... so I don’t know why a manager wouldn’t want to come in and manage these guys,” he said. “They’re set to win again.”

The penalties announced by MLB commissioner Rob Manfred on Monday came after he found illicit use of electronics to steal signs in Houston’s run to the 2017 World Series championship and again in the 2018 season. The Astros were also fined \$5 million, which is the maximum allowed under the Major League Constitution, and must forfeit their next two first- and second-round amateur draft picks.

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.** (AP) — To Hall of Fame catcher Mike Piazza, the sign-stealing scandal that’s enveloped Major League Baseball signals where the sport is these days.

“Unfortunately, it’s an unintended consequence of the digital age and all this information,” Piazza said.

Piazza was at the New York

Mets’ spring training complex on Thursday for a street naming ceremony, two hours before the team let go new manager Carlos Beltrán.

Beltrán was the third manager to lose his job this week in the wake of the cheating scheme by the Astros. Houston manager AJ Hinch was suspended by MLB and then fired by the club.

Alex Cora, the Astros’ bench

coach in their 2017 championship season, was ousted by the Red Sox. Beltrán was the only Houston player mentioned in MLB’s report.

“I think it’s a very sad episode for the game,” Piazza said.

Piazza recalled his early days behind the plate in the big leagues.

“My first bench coach, Joe Amalfitano with the Dodgers, was 95 percent on pitchouts when I was catching. It would be uncanny. He would have the third base coach’s signs, when they were going to steal or hit-and-run. And he would call the pitchout. He would watch them, but that’s fair game.”

“But obviously to use a camera and relay it to the dugout is something I can’t relate to,” he said. “Can you imagine if Nolan Ryan knew you were relaying his signs? You’d probably be missing a head.”

## FINALS

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edged out Laly Four in 2-point serves, 22-21, as neither team scored a backcourt 2-point play and the Strykers outscored Laly Four in 3-point goals, 7-5. Both of these teams were skunked in the semifinals or lost a set with zero points scored. The Strykers skunked Laly Four twice and The Aces skunked Power-Up once.

The Rocball championship games will be held in the MHS Gym starting today, Jan. 21. The starting time for the games will be at 11:45am until 12:30pm and possibly longer.

Strykers are made up of Isaac Balbin, Raylyn, Ian Kaniki, Lawrence Laniyo, Rotsed Fabian, Kirro Williams, Melvin Menchor, and Able Amu. Power-Up players, meanwhile, are Jerico Castro, Wency Castillo, Madellen Narciso, Nilo Calimay, Ariel Moises, Futima Monterubio,

Jasper Perez, and Daniel Park.

Teams that include a girl on court to play are allowed six players. Teams that don’t have a girl playing are only allowed five players, according to Rocball founder James Feger.

He’s calling it the Micronesia Rocball Championship “because there are a lot of players from the different island nations in Micronesia playing on the different teams.”

This year’s 2020 Rocball tournament had 10 teams and they played in a round-robin, three-game elimination system. A team that lost three games was eliminated. The names of the teams were GTA (Get That Ace), Strykers, The Aces, Power-Up, Infinity War, WBI (We Beat It), Wanpipty, Riot, Laly Four, and Play 5. The semifinals started two weeks ago and ended last Wednesday. Power-Up won 2 out of 3 against the Aces and the Strykers won 2 out of 3 against Laly Four.

## IT&E

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turn, 37-35.

Sonny Lerio waxed hot from everywhere in the third quarter, essentially carrying the whole IT&E team behind his back as they opened up the aforementioned 7-point advantage going into the last 10 minutes of the contest.

PPG Paint’s own Sonny—Sonny Ebu—however tried

to match Lerio’s offensive punch in the third, firing two triples and wound up with 8 in the quarter.

Both teams would fight tooth and nail in the fourth before Tenorio and company pulled off their victory, which equalized their win-loss record in the masters division at 2-2. The loss, meanwhile, was the sixth in as many tries for Ebu and company.

Tenorio top-scored for

IT&E with 27 points, while Lerio backed him up with 18. Ebu paced PPG Paint with 19 markers.

The UFO caging resumes on Thursday with its usual doubleheader with Pacific Marine taking on Saipan Vegas in the 6pm first game in the masters division. The second game will then pit Pacific Islands Club against Shirley’s Coffee Shop in the 7:30pm second game in the open division. Both games

will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

**IT&E 73** – Tenorio 27, Lerio 18, George 15, Zapata 7, Masga 2, Bucalig 2, Pineda 2, Ordas 2.

**PPG Paint 72** – Ebu 19, Montoya 10, Galulu 10, Atalig 8, Del Rio 8, Moreno 7, El Chico 6, Sanciangco 2, Lonza 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-15, 35-37, 60-53, 73-72.







Mostert lifts  
49ers to Super  
Bowl with 37-20  
win vs Packers

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Osaka, Williams  
win openers in  
Australia

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Power-Up versus Strykers in finals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Power-Up and the Strykers will meet for the championship of the 2020 Rocball tournament today at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in Susupe.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 2020 championship for the CNMI's indigenous sport of Rocball would be played between Power-Up and the Strykers today at the Marianas High School Gymnasium in Susupe.

Strykers advanced to the best-of-five Micronesia Rocball Championship against Power-Up after beating previously undefeated Laly Four in the semifinals, 2-1. The Aces came very close to knocking Power-Up out of the championship series in their third game loss by 42-41. Power-Up had to come from behind in Rocball's quarter/set system to win the game and forge the championship matchup against Strykers. The score was Power-Up 2, The Aces 1. In the semifinals of this year's championship games, the Strykers



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## IT&E edges PPG Paint, 73-72

By MARK RABAGO  
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IT&E outdueled PPG Paint in the clutch to prevail in their master division matchup, 73-72, as the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League continued last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. PPG Paint actually rallied from 7 points down after the first three quarters of play to make a game of it in the fourth and final quarter. Led by a 3-point barrage from Martin Moreno and suicide drives from Joseph Galulu, the winless



squad crept back into the game. However, big shots from best player of the game Dexter Tenorio and timely free throw shooting from point guard Amor Zapata saved the day for IT&E as they were able to eke out the 1-point victory. IT&E started strong with Tenorio hitting his stride with 9 points in the first quarter as they took a 20-15 lead. But PPG Paint fought back in the second quarter and behind a spread offense, they managed to take a 2-point lead at the

See IT&E on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
IT&E's Dexter Tenorio receives the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League best player of the game award from commissioner Lito Espino after leading his team against PPG Paint last Thursday in the master division.

## CNMI finishes 3<sup>rd</sup> in Guam

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI finished third in the three-team World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Qualifier held in Guam. The Commonwealth officially bowed out of gold medal contention after losing to Guam, 1-4, in their final game in the elimination round last Saturday at the Paseo Stadium in Agana, Guam.

Guam eventually took the gold medal after blasting New Zealand, 12-0, last Sunday. The Kiwis took the silver. For winning the gold medal, players of the U.S. territory will move onto Mexico for the 2020 World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Tournament.

The CNMI eventually finished the tournament with one win in six round-robin matches against Guam and New Zealand. After opening with four straight losses, the Com-

monwealth boys finally hit pay dirt when they beat New Zealand last Friday.

The team, however, couldn't sustain that momentum by losing to their rivals to south the next day. On that game, the CNMI started off well with Albert Adriano scoring in the first inning before Guam came right back with two scores in the bottom of the first for an early 2-1 lead.

Guam would continue to run roughshod over the CNMI and score two more in the sixth inning, while putting the clamps on CNMI batters to claim the victory.

Aside from Adriano, Team CNMI was made up of Melvin Tudela, Deandre Cruz, Kazu Dela Cruz, Gregorio Pangelinan, Cardi Borja, Joell Borja, Noah Aguon, Michael Tomakane, Jeremiah Suel Jr., Alvin Hocog, Dilan Santos, Jylon Sablan, Joey Sharry, Joshua Atalig, Jon Diaz, Austin Diaz, Jesse Stole, Achilles Evangelista, and C.J. Gonzales.



GUAM MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL  
CNMI players accept their bronze medal after finishing third in the World Baseball Softball Confederation 15-Under Oceania Qualifier held at the Paseo Stadium in Agana, Guam.